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FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

January 13, 1956

LABOR AND THE ECONOMY

Wage gains made in 1955--Due in 1956

Wage increases went to about 5 million workers during the first 9 months of 1955 as a result of major contract settlements in manufacturing, mining, transportation, trade and utilities.

Increases averaged at least 9 cents hourly for over half the workers covered by the settlements (compared with fewer than a tenth of those covered in the like 1954 period). About 1½ million workers received 13 cents or more. Fewer than a million averaged under 7 cents.

Fringe benefits—mostly health and welfare, vacation, holiday, and pension provisions—were liberalized in about 5 out of every 8 contracts providing wage boosts.

Further increases in 1956 are scheduled for about a third of these 5 million workers.

Another million workers also are covered by contracts specifying the size of their wage boosts in 1956. This makes a total of at least 2¾ million workers due 1956 wage boosts under contract settlements, according to Labor Department estimates.

In manufacturing, wage increases due in 1956 will amount to at least 6 cents hourly and will come in the second and third quarters. Increases will affect about 1½ million workers, mainly in automobile, farm equipment, and electrical goods industries.

In construction, some ½ million workers are due to get about 10 cents or more, mostly in the second quarter.

Bituminous coal miners are scheduled to get a 10-cent hike on April 1.

Trucking industry workers will receive 8 to 11 cents hourly during the first and third quarters of 1956.

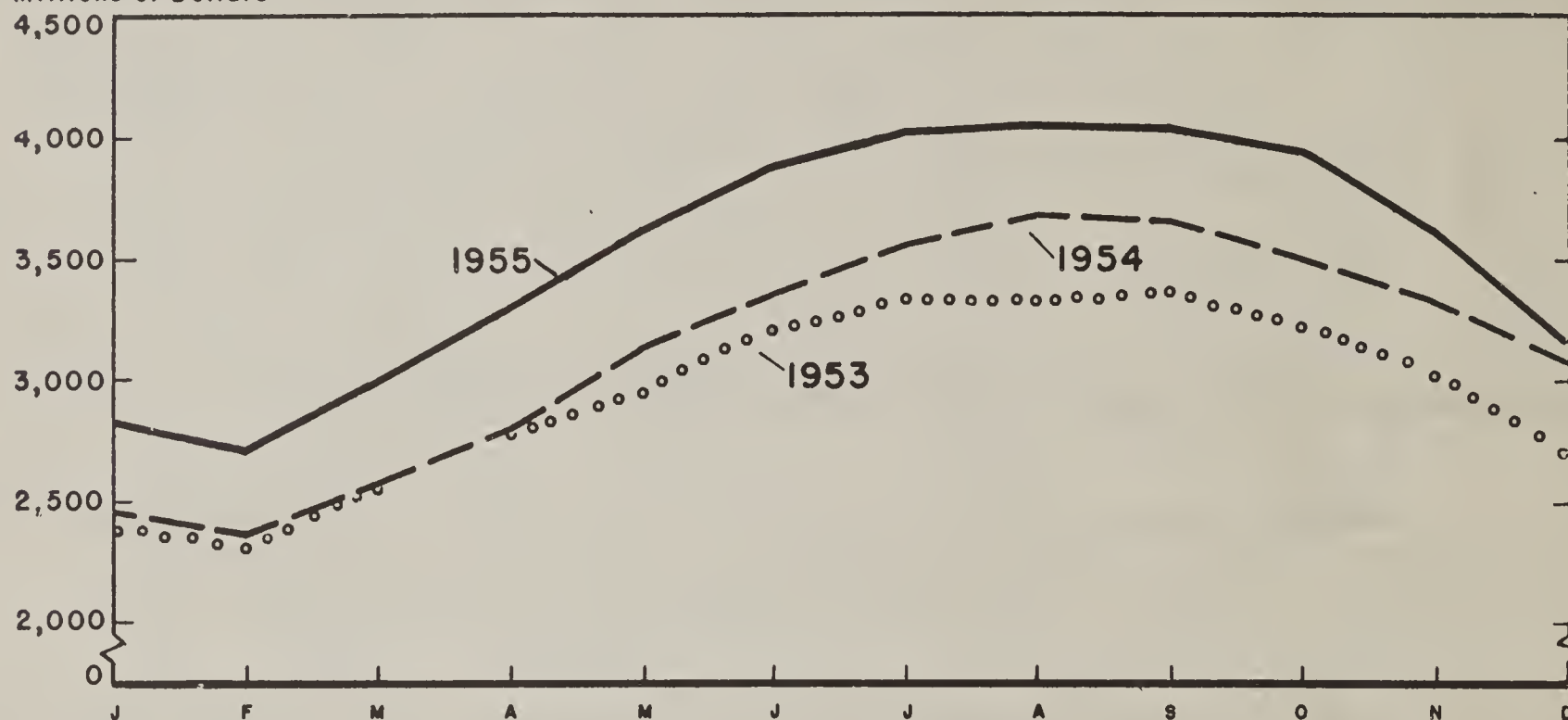
Major wage negotiations are due in 1956 in a number of other industries, including the meatpacking, paper, petroleum, rubber, steel, aluminum, airframes, shipbuilding, and telephone industries.

1955 CONSTRUCTION EXPENDITURES HIT \$42¼ BILLION

Total Expenditures For New Construction

Monthly 1953-55

Millions of Dollars



Total expenditures for new construction in 1955 reached \$42¼ billion. This was 12 percent above 1954, and a new annual record, even after adjustment for price changes.

In December, the dollar value of new construction, at an annual rate of \$42 billion, seasonally adjusted, was 3 percent more than a year earlier--compared with

over-the-year gains of about 15 percent in the spring and summer.

Residential construction has been declining more than seasonally in recent months. This weakening in residential construction has been offset somewhat by activity in private industrial and highway building.

FOUR TOP CAREER POSTS ESTABLISHED IN DEPARTMENT

Four career civil servants were reassigned on January 10, 1956, to fill top level civil service jobs in the Department of Labor as follows:

Aryness Joy Wickens, Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, was named Deputy Assistant Secretary for Employment and Manpower.

Leo R. Werts, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Manpower, was appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Labor Affairs.

Charles D. Stewart, Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, became Deputy Assistant Secretary for Standards and Statistics.

Thomas A. Lane, formerly labor attache in Rome, was appointed the Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for International Labor Affairs.

The action was taken to increase the efficiency of the Department by providing top level career specialists to assist the policy officials of the Department, Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell said in announcing the appointments.

DEPARTMENT CRACKS DOWN ON HOMEWORK RACKETEERS

As a result of a recent crackdown by the Labor Department on illegal homework in the jewelry industry, suits have been filed against 13 firms and commitments of future compliance with the wage-hour law have been obtained from 17 others.

Much of the Department's work to drive homework racketeers out of the jewelry industry has been concentrated in New England jewelry manufacturing centers, where violations have been most flagrant. Cooperating with the Department are the Rhode Island and Massachusetts State Labor Departments, the AFL-CIO Jewelers Union, and the New England Manufacturing Jewelers' and Silversmiths' Association.

The jewelry industry farms out a large part of its orders to sub-contractors. By representing themselves as legitimate businessmen, dishonest sub-contractors obtain contracts from large manufacturers, then turn work over to homeworkers under sweatshop conditions. As an example, one such homework racketeer received 20 cents per earring from the manufacturer with whom he held a contract. He paid his homeworkers 2 cents for the same earring!

The Federal wage and hour law provides that homework in the jewelry industry may be performed only by persons who cannot adjust to factory work. A certificate must be issued to each homeworker. Generally, the law requires the payment of the Federal minimum wage plus time and a half for overtime.

Secretary Mitchell has pointed out that the people who could least afford it were the very ones being exploited by the homework racketeers. "The most despicable criminal is the one who preys on the unfortunate and distressed," he said. "Small fortunes are being made by swindlers who bring back the intolerable conditions of the sweatshop and defy child-labor laws."

It took about 6 months of concerted effort by the Department to uncover the 30 firms suspected of homework violations. Four violators have been convicted. Homeworkers have received thousands of dollars in back wages, and the Department is still hard at work on the cases to assure restitution to all workers involved and future compliance with the wage-hour law.

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FACTS AND SERVICES

January 13, 1956

From The U. S. Department of Labor

Current Publications Available

MINIMUM WAGE AND THE WOMAN WORKER. Discusses the State minimum-wage situation in 1955, tells how new State laws and rates come about, effects of a minimum wage, etc. (Leaflet 24, Women's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, 14 pp., 1955. Copies available from Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. at 10 cents each.)

STATE MINIMUM-WAGE LAWS. Briefly tells of benefits which minimum-wage laws bring to workers, employers, and the community. (Leaflet 4, Women's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, 8 pp., 1955. Copies available from Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. at 5 cents a copy.)

(Single copies of both publications available free from Women's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, as long as supplies)

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FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

February 24, 1956

LABOR AND THE ECONOMY

Employment fell seasonally in January. However, employment continued to exceed by far the previous records for January. Factory employment and man-hours slackened somewhat more than usual, mostly because of the drop in automobile output. Trade employment fell a little less than usual for January.

Total employment in January amounted to 62.9 million—a drop of 1.3 million over the month. This was still a gain of 2.7 million from a year earlier, and of 1.9 million from the best previous January, in 1953.

The factory workweek dropped by about .7 hours in January, a little more than usual for the time of year. At 40.6 hours, the average week was still nearly half an hour longer than a year ago, and indicated that overtime was being worked in most industries.

Average weekly earnings of factory workers declined moderately to \$78.36 in January, because of the usual after-Christmas reduction in the workweek. The level was a record for the month, however, about \$4.40 more than a year ago.

Average hourly earnings in manufacturing remained at \$1.93 in January, the all-time high reached in the previous 2 months.

Housing starts were about the same in January as in December. The January total, 74,000, was some 14,000 below the postwar high for the month, reached last year. It was, however, about the same as the average January total of the past 7 years.

Privately owned housing starts, seasonally adjusted, were at an annual rate of 1,183,000 in January. This was about the same as in December, but nearly 200,000 fewer than last June, when the rate of starts began to fall significantly.

ON-THE-JOB INJURIES CONTINUE HIGH TOLL

Approximately 1,930,000 workers were killed or disabled by on-the-job injuries during 1955, according to preliminary estimates of the Department of Labor. The 1955 total was 4 percent above the 1954 figure of 1,860,000. It was, however, well below the level of any other year since 1949.

Work deaths were estimated at 14,200, up 200 from 1954. This was still substantially below any other year (except 1954) since estimates began in 1936.

Permanent physical impairment was suffered in some degree by approximately 76,800 other workers. The remaining 1,839,000 workers received injuries which disabled them for at least one full day. The average length of disability in these cases was 17 days.

Total days of disability resulting from these injuries during 1955 alone is estimated at 39,000,000. The total attributable to the 1955 work injuries will amount to about 193,000,000 days, when the future effects of the deaths and permanent impairments are added to the immediate loss.

Program Notes

LABOR DEPARTMENT READY FOR NEW \$1 MINIMUM

With emphasis on a nationwide educational program, the Department of Labor is completing preparations for immediate enforcement of the new \$1 Federal minimum-wage law when it becomes effective next Thursday, March 1.

Through radio and TV announcements, news stories, magazine articles, and many speeches before labor and trade organizations, the Department is advising workers of their rights and employers of their responsibilities under the Fair Labor Standards Act. Spot announcements and local news items direct the public to Wage-Hour field offices where detailed information is available. Special articles describing the law's application to specific industries have been prepared for publication in related industry magazines. New publications have been issued in simple, easy-to-understand language and are now available free from the Department. Additional wage-hour investigators have been added to the Department's staff, and new field offices are being opened throughout the country.

FACTS AND SERVICES

from the U. S. Department of Labor

February 24, 1956

Of the approximately 24 million American workers subject to the Fair Labor Standards Act, about 2 million will be entitled to pay increases under the new \$1 minimum, the Labor Department estimates. About three-fourths of these workers are in factories. The new minimum is expected to require a direct increase of \$560 million annually in the national wage bill. If the trend continues as in the past, it is expected that the new minimum wage will indirectly bring additional wage benefits to many other workers.

Among production workers in manufacturing in the United States, 10 percent have straight-time earnings of less than \$1 an hour, according to the Labor Department's most recent survey. This percentage varies markedly in different sections of the country. In the South, it is 28 percent; in the Northeast, 8 percent; in the Middle West, 4 percent; and in the Far West, 1.8 percent.

Not all workers are subject to the law. It applies only to those who are engaged in interstate commerce or in the production of goods for interstate or foreign commerce, including those whose work is closely related and directly essential to production for commerce.

The Department's Wage and Hour Division has been adding new investigators to its staff, training them in the details of the law before the new minimum becomes effective. Before the amendment to the FLSA raised the minimum to \$1 an hour, there were 477 authorized investigator jobs for the Nation; since then an additional 325 jobs have been authorized. New investigators are being assigned to areas of the country in accordance with the expected impact of the new minimum.

Some 25 new Wage-Hour field offices are being opened throughout the country. Of these, 21 have been announced. These are located in:

TRENTON, N. J.

SYRACUSE, N. Y.

EL PASO, TEXAS

SHREVEPORT, LA.

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

SOUTH BEND, IND.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

THE BRONX (NEW YORK)

LOWER MANHATTAN (NEW YORK)

MANCHESTER, N. H.

WILKES BARRE, PA.

HARRISBURG, PA.

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

MADISON, WIS.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

MEMPHIS, TENN.

SAVANNAH, GA.

ROANOKE, VA.

NORTH CHICAGO, ILL.

From The U. S. Department of Labor

Current Publications Available

WITH THIS ISSUE OF FACTS AND SERVICES—are two new Wage-Hour publications, "Handy Reference Guide to the Fair Labor Standards Act" and "Services to the Public Under the Fair Labor Standards Act."

Other new Wage-Hour publications available free upon request from the Department of Labor are described below.

HOW TO KEEP TIME AND PAY RECORDS UNDER THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT. Tells what records are required, how they should be kept, and how long they should be retained. Tells what to do about time keeping and what to do if the pay period is longer than a week. (*Leaflet. January 1956. U. S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, Washington 25, D. C.*)

HIGHLIGHTS ON COMPUTING OVERTIME PAY UNDER THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT. Gives few quick facts about common overtime pay problems and simple instructions on how to compute pay if it is figured by hourly rate, piece rate, or on salary basis. (*Leaflet. January 1956. U. S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, Washington 25, D. C.*)

A MESSAGE TO YOUNG WORKERS ABOUT THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT. Advises youngsters as to when they may work and at what type of jobs according to their age categories. Lists jobs that do not come under the child-labor provisions of the FLSA. (*Folder. January 1956. U. S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, Washington 25, D. C.*)

RETAIL AND SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS UNDER THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT. Lists typical retail establishments usually exempt from the minimum wage and overtime provisions of the wage-hour law, some establishments not exempt, and gives related information. (*Leaflet. January 1956. U. S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, Washington 25, D. C.*)

CHILD LABOR IN AGRICULTURE UNDER THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT. Tells what crew leaders and contractors of farm workers should know about child labor in agriculture. (*Folder. January 1956. U. S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, Washington 25, D. C.*)

AGRICULTURE AND RELATED EXEMPTIONS UNDER THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT. Describes under what conditions farm workers are exempt from the minimum-wage and overtime provisions of the wage-hour law and answers some common questions about agricultural and related exemptions under the FLSA. (*Leaflet. January 1956. U. S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, Washington 25, D. C.*)

FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

March 9, 1956

LABOR AND THE ECONOMY

A total of 75½ million persons, 14 years old and over, were at work at some time during 1955, according to Census estimates. This was an increase of 3½ million over 1954—the largest one-year rise in the postwar period. Women accounted for two-thirds of the increase, bringing the number of women who held jobs to an all-time high of 27.7 million.

Unemployment claims in the week which ended February 25 totaled about the same as in the previous week. Factors affecting the claims load appear to be the same as in recent weeks—automobile layoffs, chiefly in Michigan and Indiana, and bad weather, this time on the West Coast.

Insured unemployment totaled 1,482,000, in the week ended February 18. Initial claims totaled 222,600, and rose to 228,500 in the week which ended February 25.

Some 80,000 automobile workers in assembly and supplier plants in 7 key States have been laid off since January 1, and not recalled as of February 25, according to a special Labor Department tabulation. During the last full week in February, layoffs slowed down considerably—there were about 3,700 in Indiana and 400 in Wisconsin.

About three-fourths of the current automobile unemployment is in Michigan, mostly in Detroit. Other States with significant automobile unemployment are Indiana, Ohio, and New York. Small automobile layoffs have been reported from Wisconsin, Illinois, and California.

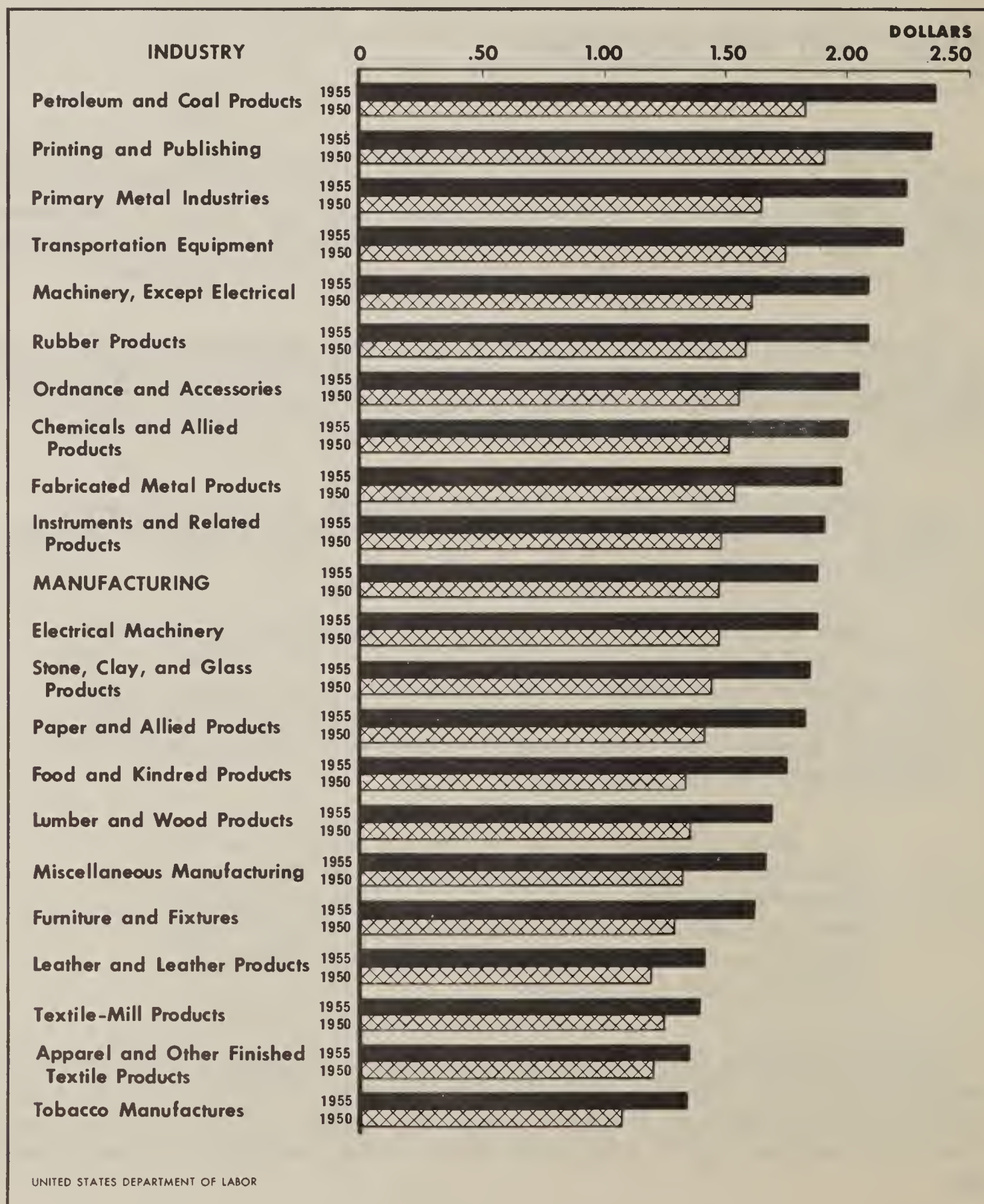
Consumer prices fell slightly in January. Commodity costs were down enough to more than offset the rise in the cost of services. As a result of declines during the past 2 months, about a million workers under escalator contracts will lose in March the cent per hour gained 6 months ago.

FACTORY EARNINGS AT RECORD IN 1955

Both hourly and weekly earnings of production workers in all manufacturing industry groups were at record levels in 1955. Average hourly earnings rose to \$1.88—a gain of 7 cents over 1954.

GROSS AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

Annual Average, 1955 and 1950



Program Notes

SAFE WORKPLACES—GOAL OF DEPARTMENT'S SAFETY PROGRAMS

An estimated 14,200 workers were killed and 76,800 suffered permanent injury as a result of on-the-job accidents in 1955. This means a total loss of 193,000,000 days of work when the future effects of 1955 job injuries are added to the immediate loss.

How much goods could workers produce in 193,000,000 days of work? They could have produced over 100 million refrigerators. They could have cut and sewed 200 million men's suits, or made 1½ billion pairs of men's shoes. They could have fabricated more than 26,000 jet bombers, or mined 2 billion tons of coal. Or they could have built a million 6-room houses.

These figures give an idea of the cost of job accidents in production loss, but the toll of work injuries in terms of human suffering and loss cannot be measured.

One of the important programs of the Department of Labor is designed to prevent such accidents and loss. The Department carries on year-round, continuing safety programs to focus attention on job accidents and on ways and means of preventing them.

Labor Department safety engineers travel to all parts of the country on request to conduct courses in job-accident prevention. They also help in organizing safety committees and in eliminating special hazards in a particular type of work. Services of these safety experts are available on request from State safety personnel or from labor unions at the international or State level.

Growing union recognition of the importance of full- or part-time safety directors in their organizations' internationals has brought requests to the Department for many of these services, particularly for the safety training courses.

The Department's 30-hour safety courses cover the following: Accident causes and corrective measures, low voltage electrical hazards, plant housekeeping, basic principles of machine guarding, fire prevention, materials handling, personal protective equipment, and occupational disease control. The various subjects can be adapted to the needs of a specific union or industry.

An even more basic 12-hour "Safety Appreciation" course is available to provide labor unions with orientation in safety, and deals with the union's stake in job-accident prevention, management and union responsibility, and other subjects. Stress is laid by the Department, however, on the 30-hour basic course as more specific and practical. Labor unions interested in obtaining copies of this prospectus should write to Paul E. Gurske, Director, Bureau of Labor Standards, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington 25, D. C.

Safety training will also be a key subject at the President's Conference on Occupational Safety to be held in Washington, May 14-16, 1956. Some 3,000 leaders of American labor, management, agriculture, State and Federal agencies, insurance, education, and private safety organizations will convene at President Eisenhower's invitation. They will work to promote voluntary cooperative action to bring tested safety techniques to the workplaces of the Nation.

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FACTS AND SERVICES

March 9, 1956

From The U. S. Department of Labor

Current Publications Available

OCCUPATIONAL WAGE SURVEYS. Each survey gives data on wage trends for selected occupational groups, tells which establishments and workers come within scope of survey, lists establishment's practices and supplementary wage provisions, and job descriptions.

Bulletin No. 1188-1 for Dallas, Texas	30¢
Bulletin No. 1188-2 for Detroit, Michigan	25¢
Bulletin No. 1188-3 for Milwaukee, Wisconsin	25¢

(Issued by the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Each bulletin may be obtained from Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. at price listed above.)

FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

April 20, 1956

LABOR AND THE ECONOMY

→ **March employment** hit a new high for the month. At 63.1 million, it was up 2.6 million over last year and topped the previous March high—1953—by 1.4 million.

→ **Unemployment** in March totaled 2.8 million, or 4.3 percent of the total civilian labor force.

Auto unemployment in the 7 leading auto-producing States rose to 104,000 during the week which ended April 7. There were 9,000 new layoffs, but only 3,000 recalls. California had 3,300 layoffs, and Michigan 2,400. The largest recall involved about 1,000 Chrysler workers in Indiana.

→ **Earnings of factory workers** rose in March to an average of \$1.95 hourly. This was a new high—10 cents more than a year ago. The increase in March was especially noticeable in industries most affected by the new \$1 minimum wage.

Weekly earnings of factory workers averaged \$78.59 in March—a new record, except for the seasonal peak in November and December last year.

→ **Construction expenditures** in the first quarter of 1956 amounted to \$8.5 billion, matching the record set during the first quarter last year.

Varying changes among building types have occurred since last year. Private residential and public industrial building have decreased during the first quarter of 1956. This was offset by an increase in commercial building, private industrial construction, highway work, and public service enterprises. During 1955, construction of single-family houses broke all previous annual records and accounted for 90 percent of all dwelling units started.

March nonfarm housing starts were up 23 percent from February, but the increase was less than usual for this time of year. There were 94,400 privately financed units started. After allowance for seasonal changes, this is the lowest since May 1954.

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LATEST FACTS ON JOBS AND WAGES				
	MARCH	MONTH AGO	YEAR AGO	5 YEARS AGO
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT (MILLIONS)	63.1	62.6	60.5	60.2
WEEKLY WAGES (AVERAGE FACTORY WORKER)	\$78.59	\$78.17	\$75.11	\$63.96
REAL EARNINGS ¹	---	62.63	60.65	55.05
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1947-49=100)	---	114.6	114.3	110.3

¹ REAL EARNINGS SHOW WHAT THE AVERAGE FACTORY WORKER WITH 3 DEPENDENTS ACTUALLY GETS IN TAKE-HOME PAY AFTER DEDUCTIONS FOR FEDERAL TAXES AND SOCIAL SECURITY AND FOR ADJUSTMENTS TO ALLOW FOR CHANGES IN CONSUMER PRICES.

Program Notes

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM LAGS

With one exception, there has been no action on any of the 10 major legislative proposals of the Department of Labor. These proposals (see FACTS AND SERVICES, Jan. 27, 1956,) would benefit directly some 43 million working men and women.

The exception is: Hearings have been held on the Department's recommendation to liberalize workmen's compensation benefits for more than 500,000 longshore and harbor workers.

SOME FACTS ABOUT WHITE-COLLAR WORKERS

A new study of the Department of Labor on employment and earnings of white-collar workers shows that:

Increases in average annual earnings for white-collar workers lagged behind similar increases for manual workers during the period 1939-54, diminishing the difference in pay levels.

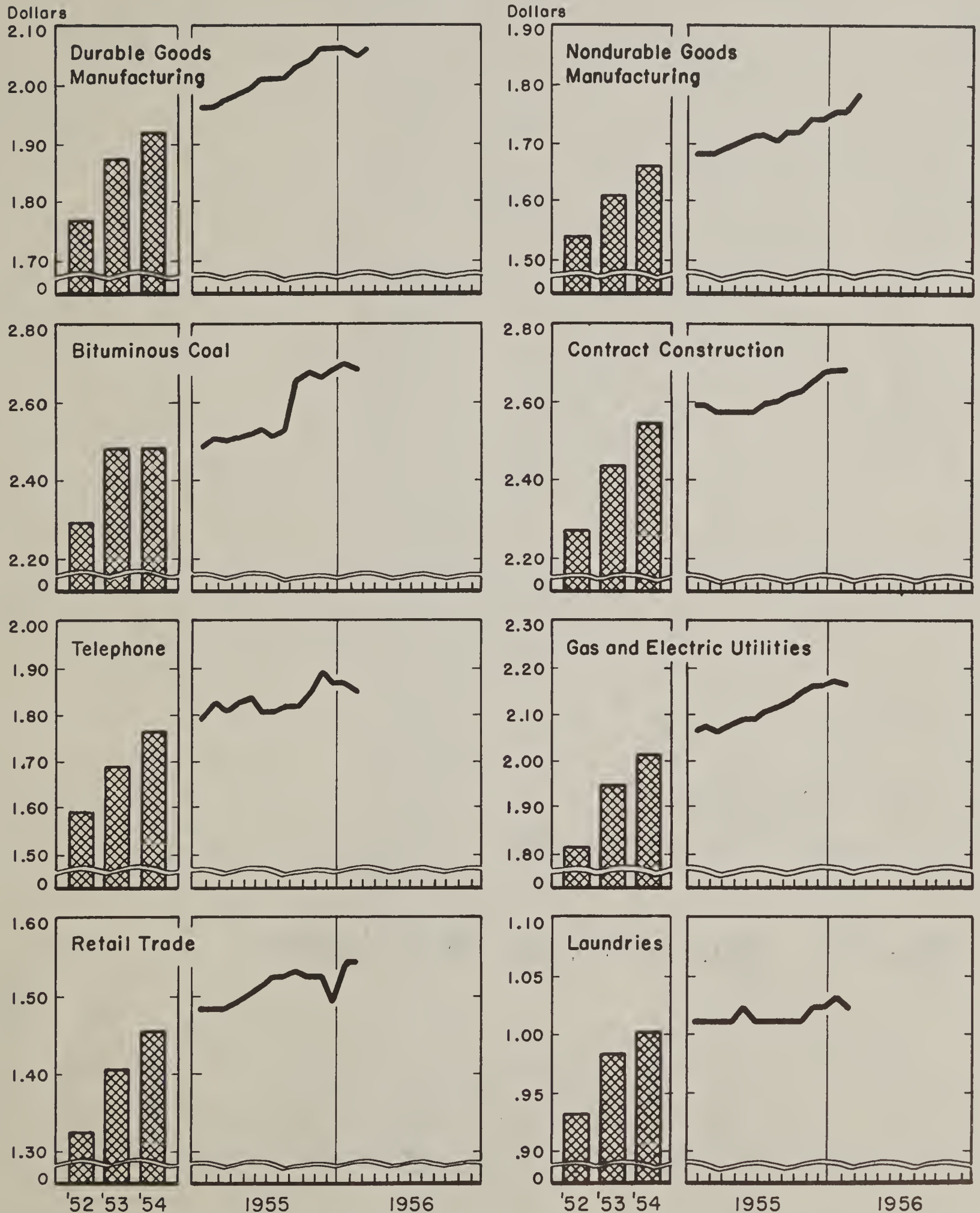
Plant workers are catching up with office workers in fringe benefits. In some instances, such as health and accident insurance, plant workers have won even wider coverage than office workers.

The ratio of white-collar workers to production employees varies widely among manufacturing industries. The average for all manufacturing in 1954 was 1 to 4, and they now constitute nearly two-fifths of the total labor force.

Based on the assumption of 52 weeks work, the median weekly incomes for men in the major occupational groups in 1954 were as follows: Professional, technical, and kindred workers, \$94.32; managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm, \$100.65; clerical and kindred workers, \$71.83; sales workers, 73.52; craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers, \$81.65; and operatives and kindred workers, \$64.40.

AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS IN SELECTED INDUSTRIES

1952-54 Annually; 1955-56 Monthly



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FACTS AND SERVICES

April 20, 1956

From The U. S. Department of Labor

Current Publications Available

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE WALSH-HEALEY PUBLIC CONTRACTS ACT. Leaflet gives brief information about the principal provisions of the act. Tells what the act is, what workers are covered, how workers are protected, how to compute overtime pay, what records must be kept, and other information about the Public Contracts act. (U. S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions. Leaflet. 12 pages, 1956. Free copies available from the U. S. Department of Labor, Washington 25, D. C.)

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FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

May 4, 1956

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NEW SERIES SHOWS CHARACTERISTICS OF UNEMPLOYED

About 4 out of every 10 unemployed workers covered by jobless insurance in February had been out of work for 4 weeks or less, according to a new monthly statistical series of the Labor Department on the make-up of the unemployed.

About the same proportion--4 out of 10--had been jobless 5 to 10 weeks. This was disclosed in the first of the reports, being released this week.

Major New Program

A major new program of the Department, the series makes it possible for the first time to examine details of industrial unemployment. It gives new facts on the insured unemployed regularly attached to nonfarm industry, such as their age, sex, what industries they come from. It tells about the major occupations of the unemployed--professional, skilled, semiskilled, or unskilled--a measurement which the Department considers of particular importance in view of increased technology.

The analyses cover the week which includes the 12th day of each month. The first report covers the weeks of January 8-14 and February 12-18.

Below Year Ago

The first report disclosed that insured unemployment totaled about 1½ million in mid-February, considerably below a year ago, because of generally improved business

conditions. It also showed that unemployment was at a low rate in many important industries--1.7 percent in non-electrical machinery, 2.1 percent in primary metals, 2.3 percent in wholesale and retail groups.

The insured unemployed between mid-January and mid-February:

- Declined by 27,000 among apparel workers.
- Increased by 37,000 in transportation equipment because of auto layoffs.
- Rose by 25,000 among construction workers. Theirs was the highest rate of unemployment in mid-February, about 15 percent, caused by the usual winter slowdown in building. About 1 of every 4 of the insured unemployed was a construction worker.

Other Highlights

- Here are other data on the insured unemployed which the first report brought to light:
 - Over 30 percent were unskilled, although only about 10 percent of the nonfarm labor force is unskilled.
 - Only 10 percent were clerical and sales workers, although these represent about 30 percent of the nonfarm labor force.

from the U. S. Department of Labor

- Three out of 4 were men.
- Of both men and women, 3 of every 4 were married.
- Average duration of unemployment was 7.4 weeks.
- About 4 in 10 had been out of work less than 4 weeks; 1 of 10 for over 14 weeks.
- Women tended to be unemployed longer than men.
- Generally younger workers were jobless for shorter periods than older workers.
- Most were under 45 years of age.
- Four of every 5 were between 25 and 64 years old.
- Among those over 64, one in every 4 had been jobless for over 14 weeks.
- Over 8 percent of the men and fewer than 4 percent of the women were over 64.

In discussing the new series, Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell said: "No longer is one figure—2 million, 3 million, or 4 million—enough to measure the significance of unemployment.

"In order to deal more effectively with unemployment," Secretary Mitchell added, "we need to know more about those who have lost their jobs. We need to know something about their occupations, what industries they worked for, whether they are men or women, married, or single, how old they are, and how all of these factors are related to the length of time they have been out of work.

"These new reports represent a great step forward in our knowledge about unemployment," the Secretary continued, "and are an important part of our drive to improve and expand the economic information available to Government and the public. They are the result of about a year's planning and development on the part of the Department of Labor and the State Employment Security Agencies."

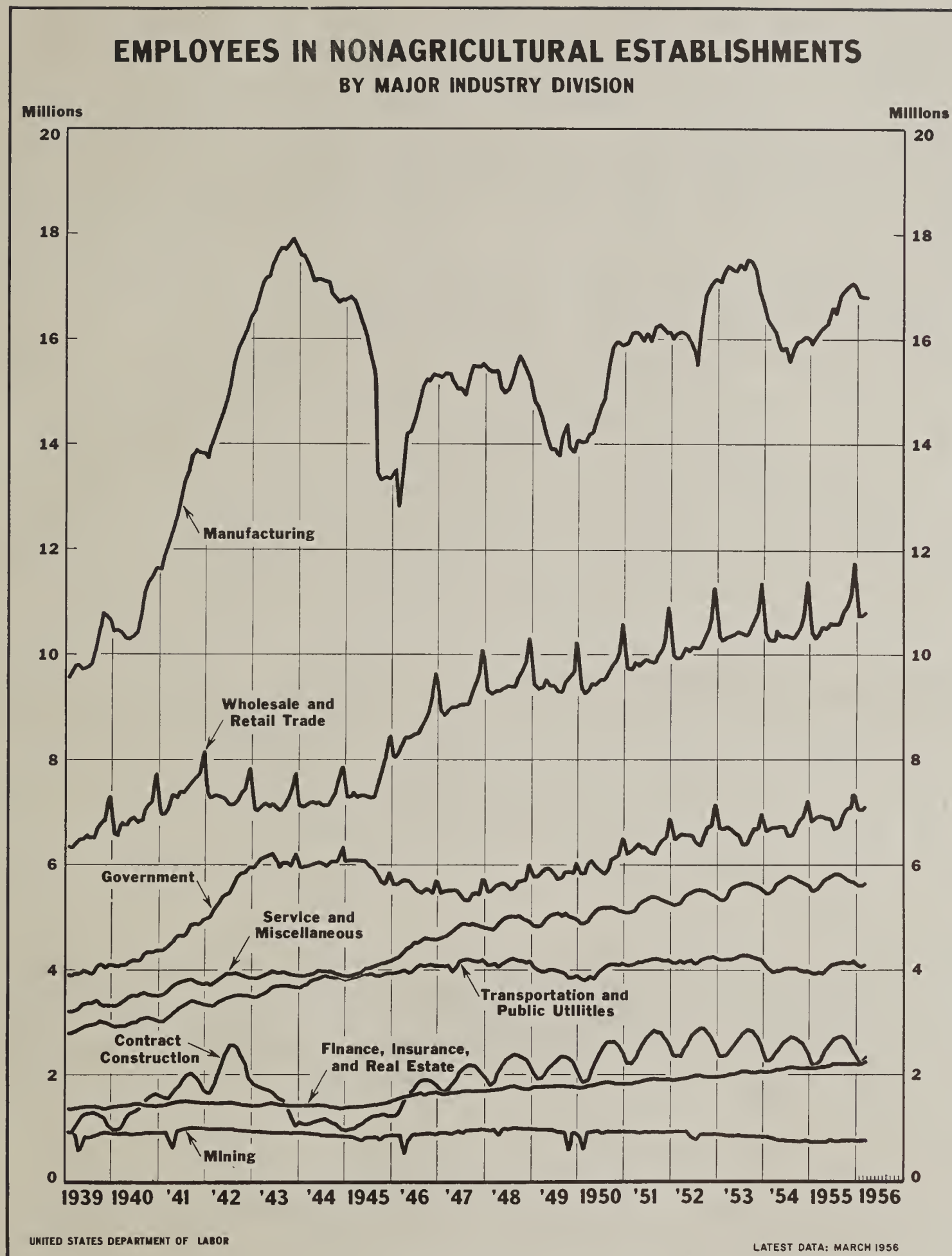
Information in the reports is based on a sample survey of all claimants for unemployment insurance in the United States filing claims under State laws covering 38 million workers; Federal law, covering some 2.5 million Government workers; and the law covering several million veterans of the Korean war. Information is collected by all the 1,700 local employment offices throughout the country.

Summaries of the highlights contained in the new series on the make-up of the unemployed will appear in FACTS AND SERVICES as monthly reports are compiled.

LABOR AND THE ECONOMY

Homeowners Are on the Increase. About 60 percent of the Nation's "householders" owned their own homes in February 1956. This was the highest rate on record. (Records go back to 1890.) In 1950, the home ownership rate was 55 percent. Between 1950 and 1955, the biggest increase was in the South—from 54 to 61 percent.

The Labor Department's Consumer Price Index moved up 0.1 percent between February and March to 114.7. This was the first rise since last November. During the past 2 years, the CPI has fluctuated between 114.2 and 115.2 (1947-49=100).



NOTE:

Manufacturing—e.g., steel, automobiles, textiles, etc.

Government—Includes Federal, State, and local.

Service and Miscellaneous—e.g., hotels, laundries, business services, personal services, etc.

Transportation and Public Utilities—e.g., railroads, gas, electricity, telephones, etc.

Contract Construction—e.g., homes, factories, stores, harbors, highways, etc. Includes only those firms engaged in construction business which work on a contract basis for others.

Mining—e.g., coal, metals, petroleum, etc.

FACTS AND SERVICES

May 4, 1956

From The U. S. Department of Labor

WITH THIS ISSUE OF FACTS AND SERVICES you will find a copy of the Department of Labor's newly issued List of Publications for your convenience.

Current Publications Available

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING CLAUSES: LAYOFF, RECALL, AND WORK-SHARING PROCEDURES. New compilation contains layoff, recall, and work-sharing clauses selected from recent collective bargaining agreements. Clauses are arranged for easy reference. They deal with (1) forestalling layoffs; (2) layoff procedures, including seniority; (3) recall to work; (4) work-sharing arrangements; and (5) compensation to laid-off employees. A glossary of terms used in discussing such clauses is included in the appendix. (*U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics Bulletin No. 1189. 1956. Available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. at 40 cents each.*)

PROBLEMS IN MEASUREMENT OF EXPENDITURES ON SELECTED ITEMS OF SUPPLEMENTARY EMPLOYEE REMUNERATION. This is an exploratory survey of employers' record-keeping practices and their ability to provide actual or estimated annual expenditures for paid vacations, holidays, and sick leave; premium pay for overtime and work on holidays; shift premium pay; pension plans; insurance, health, and welfare plans; and legally required payments. (*U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics Bulletin No. 1186. 1956. Available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. at 50 cents each.*)

COUNSELING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE FOR YOUTH. Pamphlet describes the procedures which apply in employment service work with youth. It is designed to be used as a supplement to the more general discussions in Counseling and Employment Service for Special Worker Groups. (*U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Employment Security. 70 pages. December 1954. Available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. at 30 cents each. Single copies available free from Labor Department as long as supplies last.*)

COUNSELING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE FOR SPECIAL WORKER GROUPS. Describes the counseling and placement services available at local employment services offices throughout the country. (*U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Employment Security. 124 pages. 1955. Available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. at 40 cents each. Single copies available free from Labor Department as long as supplies last.*)

JUN 15 1956

FACTS and SERVICES

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

June 1, 1956

LABOR AND THE ECONOMY

Employment Conditions Improve

Employment conditions showed improvement in almost all sections of the country except in some centers dependent upon the auto industry, spring surveys of manpower conditions in 149 of the Nation's largest labor market areas disclosed.

Decreases in unemployment occurred in two-thirds of the areas, the Labor Department's bi-monthly survey showed. Almost all areas reported continued high and generally stable employment levels in most non-auto-motive durable goods lines.

Employers' hiring plans pointed to continued but generally slight job gains through mid-July in most of the areas surveyed.

Job gains shifted 5 areas into improved ratings in the Labor Department's May classifications. These were Indianapolis, Sacramento, Salt Lake City, Atlantic City, and Tacoma, Wash.

Because of layoffs in the auto industry, 4 major auto centers were placed in the substantial labor surplus category. Auto layoffs rose by 8,000 in the week which ended May 19 to a total of 167,000 in the 7 leading auto States.

The four auto centers are Detroit and Flint, Mich., Kenosha, Wis., and South Bend, Ind. Knoxville, Tenn. was similarly rated.

The classification of the auto centers makes them eligible for special treatment in Government procurement and for accelerated tax amortization.

Twenty-three of the 149 areas had substantial labor surplus in May. In March, there were 19; a year ago, there were 35.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

Insured unemployment totaled about 1.5 million in mid March--nearly 250,000 below a year ago and about the same as in mid-February 'this year. This was disclosed in the second of the Labor Department's new series on the characteristics of the insured unemployed released yesterday.

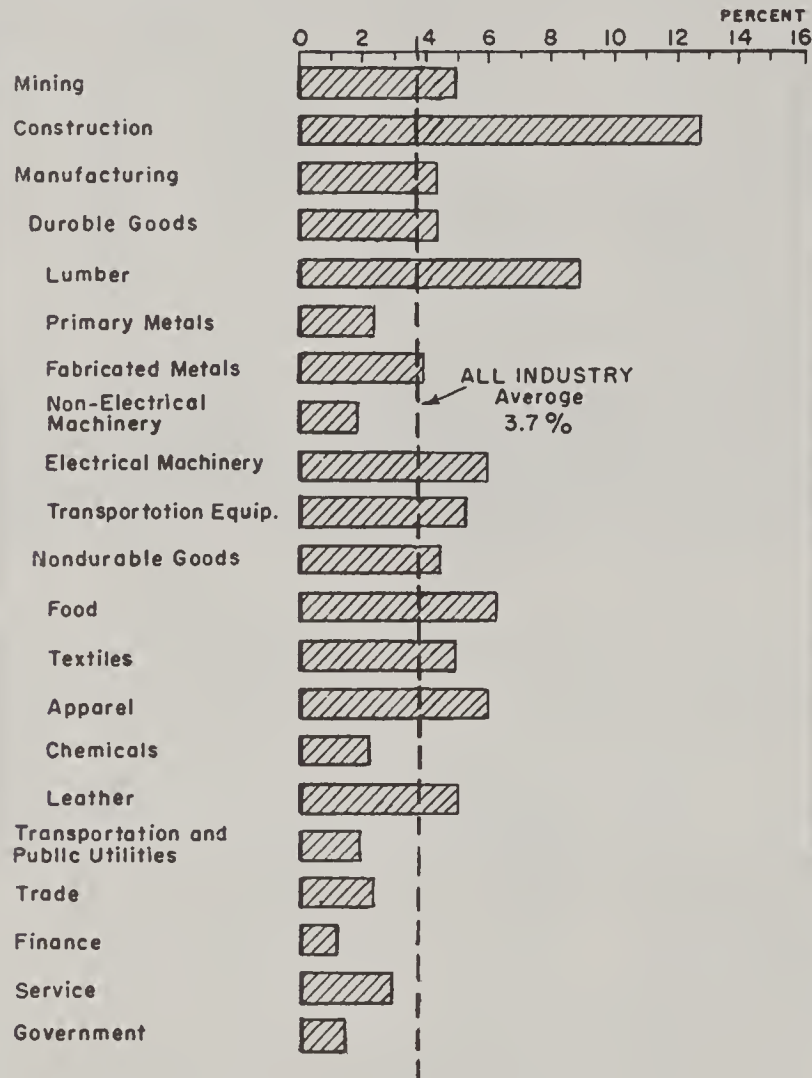
Fewer construction workers and more manufacturing workers were unemployed in March than in February.

Unemployment among construction workers dropped about 55,000 over the month, but was largely offset by job losses among auto, electrical machinery, and apparel workers.

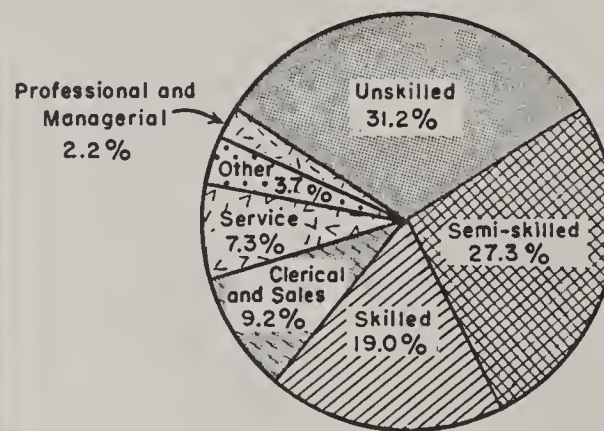
Average length of unemployment rose by 1 week to 8.4 weeks over the month. The lowest unemployment rate, 1.1 percent, was among finance, insurance, and real estate workers. The highest, 12.7 percent, was among construction workers, although the rate dropped from 15.1 in February. The rate in manufacturing was 4.2 percent.

INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT IN MID-MARCH 1956

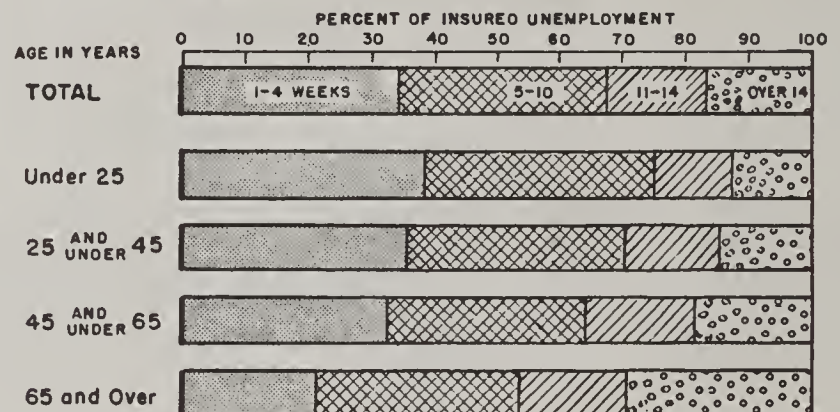
Seasonal industries had the highest unemployment rates



Unemployment was particularly heavy among the unskilled



and tended to last longer among older workers.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

About 900,000 of the insured unemployed stopped filing claims over the month. Of these, 85 percent stopped filing of their own accord—presumably most of them got jobs. Ten percent exhausted their benefit rights and the remaining 5 percent were disqualified. The average weekly volume of initial claims declined by about 14 percent over the month to 235,800.

Average weekly take-home pay for factory workers with 3 dependents was \$71.94 in April—an all-time high for the month. In terms of purchasing power, it was 3½ percent greater than a year ago.

will get a one-cent-an-hour pay increase as a result of the rise in the CPI over the last 3 months. This will offset a reduction which occurred 3 months earlier.

The Department's consumer price index rose in April by 0.2 percent to 114.9—(1947-49=100). Nearly one million workers

Nonfarm housing starts rose seasonally in April to 106,000, a 10 percent increase over March.

Program Notes

LABOR DEPARTMENT RECOVERS \$1,356,839 IN BACK WAGES IN 1st QUARTER OF 1956

As a result of Wage-Hour investigations between January 1 and March 31 of this year, \$1,356,839 in back wages due 16,877 workers was recovered for them.

Violations were found in 3,514 non-agricultural plants visited. Most were unintentional, and due to a misunderstanding or misapplication of the law's exemptions. The majority of the firms found to be in violation of the law have already agreed to make restitution of back wages to their workers.

The quarterly record shows that 45 percent of the 3,514 establishments were in violation of the overtime requirements, 11 percent had failed to pay at least the minimum wage, while 9 percent were illegally employing under-age minors. Most of the minimum-wage violations involved non-payment of at least 75 cents an hour, since the new national minimum wage did not become effective until March 1.

Among new establishments visited for the first time by a Wage-Hour investigator, 54 percent were found not paying proper overtime, 16 percent were failing to pay the minimum wage, and 11 percent were illegally employing minors.

During the same 3-month period, investigators found 195 farms subject to the law illegally employing 649 children under 16 years of age during local school hours. Investigations disclosed that 176 youngsters were under 14 years of age. Most of the violations were found on farms where the children were engaged in stoop labor.

COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE APPOINTED

A new "Committee on Compliance" has been appointed in the Wage and Hour Division to determine how much compliance is being obtained, how to keep track of it, and how to do a better job of getting it.

So far, the Committee has: (1) started to revise forms used by investigators to readily show whether a violation is a major or minor one; (2) develop a sample of about 10,000 investigations to determine what the compliance picture looks like for covered employment as a whole; and (3) develop a new screening process to get better leads on channeling investigation efforts and to obtain better results in compliance.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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FACTS AND SERVICES

June 1, 1956

From The U. S. Department of Labor

Current Publications Available

NATIONAL STANDARDS OF APPRENTICESHIP FOR THE CRAFTS OF THE PLASTERING INDUSTRY. A revision of the national apprenticeship standards of the plastering industry, which were originally adopted in 1945. Provisions have been modernized to meet the training needs and changing methods in the plastering crafts. Standards are designed as a guide to contractors and labor in every locality in setting up and placing in operation comprehensive, step-by-step apprentice training programs. (April 1956. 27 pp. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship. Single copies free from the Department as long as supplies last.)

MR. EXECUTIVE. . . A MEMO TO YOU. Folder directs attention of employers to services of the Bureau of Apprenticeship dealing with training. (April 1956. 4 pp. Reprint. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship. Copies available free from the Department.)

FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

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APR 1 1957

February 28, 1957

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

was, however, the third lowest figure since data were first compiled in 1936.

CHARACTERISTICS OF JOBLESS

The composition of the unemployed in 1956 was continuously changing, Labor Department reports on characteristics of the insured unemployed show. Studies indicate that extensive turnover among the jobless is generally characteristic of periods of high-level economic activity, when unemployment tends to be mainly seasonal and frictional.

Changes in the kinds of skills of the jobless between early spring and autumn, 1956, resulted mainly from wide swings in employment in the construction, apparel, food processing, automobile and other seasonal industries.

WAGES IN BUILDING

Union wage scales averaged \$3.08 per hour in the major building trades at the beginning of this year. This was 14 cents, or 4.7 percent, above last year, a Labor Department survey of 7 major building trades in 100 cities showed.

Union pay scales among the 6 major skilled trades ranged from \$3.06 for plasterers to \$3.68 for bricklayers. For building laborers, it was \$2.22.

1956 WORK INJURIES UP

Nearly 2 million workers were disabled by on-the-job injuries during 1956, according to Labor Department estimates. The 1956 total—1,990,000—was 2 percent above that of 1955, but still represented a slight improvement because more people were at work in 1956.

Deaths resulting from work injuries were up 100 over 1955 to 14,300. This

HOUSING STARTS

Nonfarm housing starts totaled 65,000 in January, 13 percent below last year and the lowest for the month since 1952.

Effects of the recent increase to 5 percent in the ceiling on FHA interest rates are not yet completely clear. In January, the first full month under the new rate, new housing units included in FHA applications rose about seasonally; in recent months there had been a downturn, after seasonal adjustment. VA appraisal requests, still under the 4½ percent interest ceiling, declined slightly in January, although a seasonal rise is normally expected. On the other hand, conventionally financed starts increased to exceed the levels of a year earlier by 12 percent.

WOMEN WORKERS

Employed women in 1956 reached an all-time high average of nearly 21 million per month, almost a third of the Nation's total employed.

About half of them, or slightly over 10 million, were married.

Women were household heads in some 5 million families. Nearly half of these were in the labor force, and a fifth were the only wage earners in the family.

The average age of women workers has been rising steadily—today, it is almost 40 years.

LATEST FACTS ON JOBS AND WAGES				
	JANUARY	DECEMBER	YEAR AGO	5 YEARS AGO 1952
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT (MILLIONS)	62.9	64.6	62.9	59.7
WEEKLY EARNINGS, MANUFACTURING	82.41	84.05	78.55	66.91
NET, SPENDABLE EARNINGS (WORKER WITH 3 DEPENDENTS) ¹	74.99	76.54	72.07	62.79
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1947-49 = 100)	---	118.0	114.6	113.1

¹ NET SPENDABLE EARNINGS ARE OBTAINED BY DEDUCTING APPLICABLE SOCIAL SECURITY AND FEDERAL INCOME TAXES FROM THE AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING.

DEPARTMENT ISSUES 1956 ANNUAL REPORT

Expanded services to workers in a year of unparalleled high wages, employment, and spending are described in the Labor Department's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1956.

The 263-page report tells of the Department's increased activity in law enforcement, employment security, statistical research and analysis, and other areas. During the year, additional efforts were made to improve the opportunities of older workers, youth, women workers, migratory farm and handicapped workers, and other groups, the report says.

The Department also continued its work to develop and improve programs dealing with such questions as apprenticeship, relief for areas with persistent manpower surpluses, maximum utilization and development of skilled manpower, and the effects of technological advance upon the work force.

The report contains data on the Administration's labor legislation program, together with text, tables, and charts on the

activities of each of the Department's bureaus and offices.

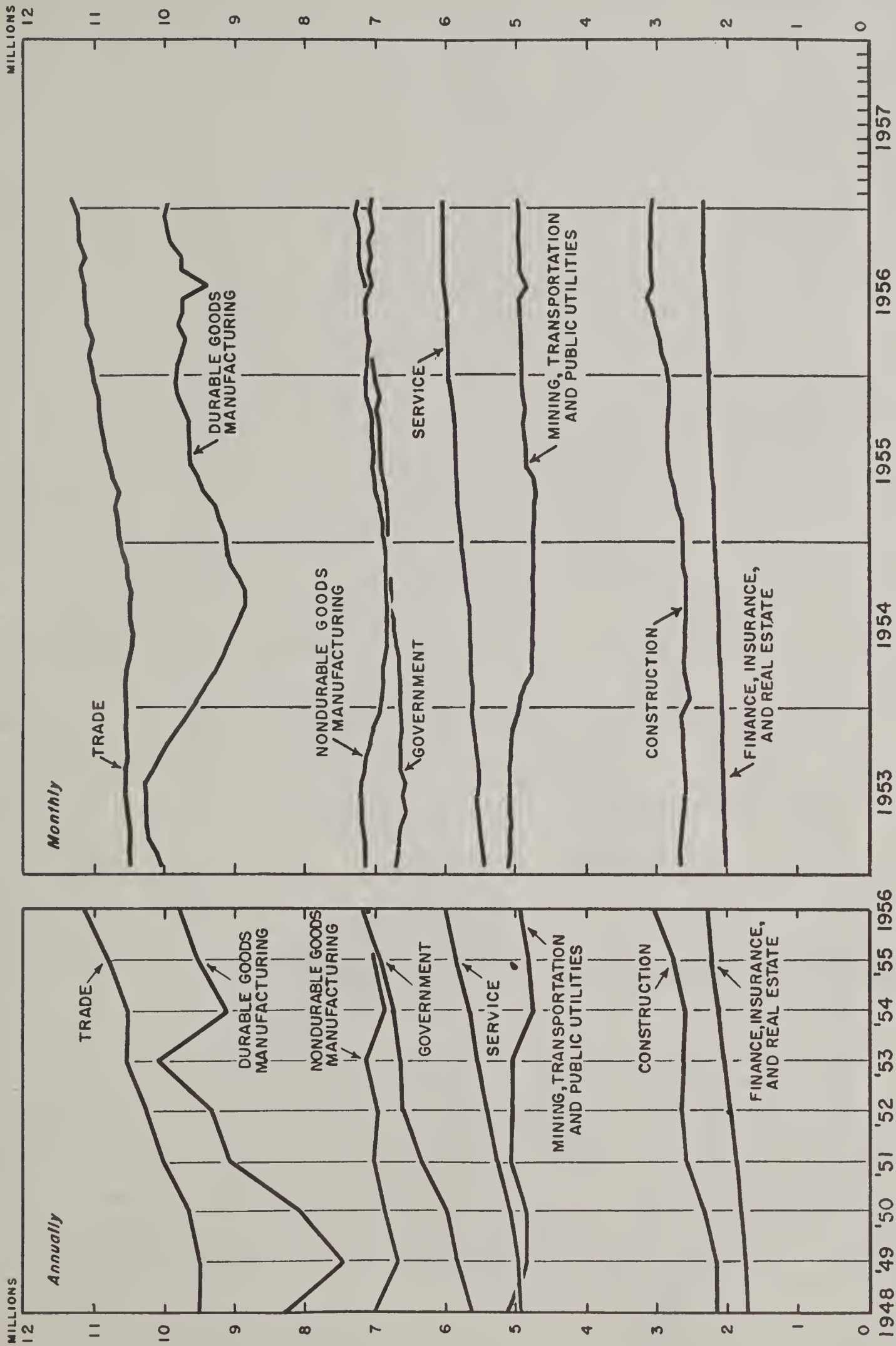
Copies are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at 75 cents each.

AFL-CIO ETHICAL CODE PRAISED BY SECRETARY MITCHELL

Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell praised the AFL-CIO for its new code of ethical practices spelling out in detail its rules for affiliated unions.

"The great labor leaders of today realize that the lice that infect a few labor unions do more than merely injure those unions," the Secretary said. "They deprive the labor movement of its very meaning . . . They destroy public confidence . . . Leaders like George Meany know that what is at stake here is not merely the future of a few unions, but the future of the entire movement. Their response to this challenge, as evidenced in both the statement of policy and the ethical code released from Miami Beach last month, has been magnificent."

EMPLOYEES IN NONAGRICULTURAL ESTABLISHMENTS
Seasonally Adjusted



LATEST DATA: JANUARY 1957.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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FACTS AND SERVICES

From The U. S. Department of Labor

February 28, 1957

Current Publications Available

WHAT SOCIAL SECURITY MEANS TO WOMEN. Gives facts that women should know about social security. Answers pertinent questions about Old Age and Survivors Insurance, and is detailed enough to answer specific questions and straighten out most common misconceptions. Covers women in every status. Tells what work is covered under OASI, when a person is insured, how earnings are credited, what benefits are provided, how average earnings are figured, what credits are needed for the woman who stops work, when a disabled person is eligible for benefits, and discusses the retirement age for women.

(U. S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau Pamphlet No. 3, 1957. 26 pp. Single copies free from the Labor Department while supply lasts. For sale by Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at 15 cents each.)

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FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

May 18, 1956

LABOR AND THE ECONOMY

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

→ **Total employment** reached 64.0 million in April, an all-time high for the month, and 2.3 million above the record set in 1953 and 1954.

About two-thirds of the employment gains over the year were among newcomers to the labor force—middle aged women, teen-agers, and young men between 20 and 24. The rest of the gains were among adult men, many of whom were unemployed last year.

→ **Unemployment** declined seasonally in April to 2.6 million, 400,000 below a year ago, as rehiring in outdoor industries picked up. Most of the drop was among men supporting families and workers who had been unemployed for relatively long periods.

The rate of unemployment fell to 3.9 percent of the civilian labor force. It was 4.6 percent a year ago, when the labor force was about 2 million smaller.

Auto unemployment is still growing. In the week which ended May 5, there were some 12,000 new layoffs and only about 1,000 recalls. This raised the total to 148,000 in the 7 leading auto-producing States.

→ **Total personal income** rose to a new record annual rate of \$314.9 billion in March. The annual rate a year ago was \$295.7 billion.

→ **In communication equipment manufacturing**, employment was at near record levels in January 1956 when a manpower survey of the industry was made by the Labor Department. Employment was 9 percent higher than a year earlier.

Surveyed establishments planned to expand employment by 4.4 percent by July 1956.

Shortages of scientific, technical, and skilled workers were reported by one-third of the establishments surveyed.

→ **Of the 42 million families** in the United States in 1955, three-fifths were married couples with their own children or other relatives living with them.

→ **Strike activity** remained at relatively low levels in March. New strikes totaled 250, as in the previous month.

FACTS AND SERVICES

from the U. S. Department of Labor

May 18, 1956

LATEST FACTS ON JOBS AND WAGES				
	APRIL	MARCH	YEAR AGO	5 YEARS AGO
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT (MILLIONS)	64.0	63.1	61.7	60.0
WEEKLY WAGES (AVERAGE FACTORY WORKER)	78.39	78.78	74.96	64.21
REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS ¹ (1947-49 DOLLARS)	62.99	60.46	55.18	
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1947-49=100)	114.7	114.2	110.4	

¹ REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS ARE OBTAINED BY TAKING THE AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING, DEDUCTING THE SOCIAL SECURITY AND FEDERAL INCOME TAXES WHICH WOULD BE APPLIED IF THE AVERAGE WORKER HAS 3 DEPENDENTS, AND THEN ADJUSTING FOR THE CHANGE IN CONSUMER PRICES SINCE THE 1947-49 PERIOD.

Program Notes

Secretary Tells U. S. Position on Forced Labor

The United States will support a convention to outlaw forced labor, Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell announced last week. The Secretary said in a statement:

"The United States Government has decided that at the forthcoming conference of the International Labor Organization, it will favor an appropriate convention which would outlaw forced labor and which would include a provision specifically prohibiting the products of forced labor in international trade."

Forced labor will be discussed at the annual conference of the International Labor Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, June 6-28. Each of the 71 member countries sends two Government delegates, one employer delegate, and one labor delegate.

Delegates from the United States will be: for Government—J. Ernest Wilkins, Assistant Secretary of Labor for International Affairs, and David W. Wainhouse, Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Organization Affairs, State Department; for employers—Charles Smith, Jr., President, Steel Improvement and Forge Co., Cleveland, Ohio; for labor—George P. Delaney, International Representative, AFL-CIO.

President Urges Local Action To Cut Job Injuries

The main job of reducing the tragic loss of lives through occupational accidents rests with the States and local communities, President Eisenhower told some 3,000 delegates to the President's Conference on Occupational Safety, held in Washington, D. C., May 14-16.

President Eisenhower added that occupational accidents, which last year took over 14,000 lives, are in many ways more tragic than traffic accidents, because in industry it should be easier to prevent fatal accidents.

The President called the Conference and proclaimed May 13-19 "Job Safety Week."

Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell, in the opening address before the Conference, declared that most of the job accidents reported last year could have been prevented through greater safety efforts.

"Let us apply the skills that made this nation an industrial giant to the problem of making it safe," Secretary Mitchell urged.

At the session on Wednesday morning, William F. Schnitzler, secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO, said union-management cooperation in preventing accidents "is a prime necessity and the AFL-CIO will do its best to spur this kind of cooperation."

He called for improvements in State workmen's compensation and industrial safety laws, and in the field of rehabilitation.

West Coast industrialist J. D. Zellerbach spoke on management's responsibility in preventing accidents.

He said no industrial concern "can afford to function without a sound accident prevention program."

More than 180 leaders and members of unions from all over the country attended the President's Safety Conference.

Because increasing mechanization in agriculture has drawn farm safety problems closer to those of industry, the Conference this year invited the U. S. Department of Agriculture and farm representatives to join. Also for the first time, leaders from religious and women's groups were invited to attend.

PUBLICATIONS FOR YOUNG JOB SEEKERS

With the school year drawing to a close, young people, their parents, and their prospective employers may be interested in some of the publications issued by the U. S. Department of Labor dealing with youth employment. Some of these are listed in this issue of FACTS AND SERVICES on page 4.

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FACTS AND SERVICES

May 18, 1956

From The U. S. Department of Labor

Current Publications Available

LOOKING AHEAD BY WAY OF APPRENTICESHIP—A Message to American Youth. (U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship. 16 pp. Reprinted March 1956.)

MARILYN WANTS TO KNOW—After High School What? (U. S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau Leaflet No. 8. 12pp. 1954.)

OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK PUBLICATIONS. (U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 8-page leaflet. March 1956.)

A MESSAGE TO YOUNG WORKERS ABOUT THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT. (U. S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions. 6 pp. March 1956.)

YOU AND YOUR JOB—Job Planning for Youth. (U. S. Department of Labor, United States Employment Service. 24 pp. 1952.)

EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATES HELP YOU HELP YOUTH. (U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards Bulletin No. 183. 24 pp. 1955.)

THE YOUTH YOU SUPERVISE. (U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards. Bulletin No. 174. 16pp. 1954.)

FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

June 15, 1956

LABOR AND THE ECONOMY

→ Total employment pushed past the 65-1/4 million level in May, exceeding by 2½ million the best earlier May on record. The increase of 1-1/4 million since April resulted mainly from the usual large expansion in agriculture and sizable gains in construction. Despite cutbacks in the auto industry, the rise in total employment since the beginning of the year has been in line with seasonal expectations.

→ Unemployment in May held at the April level of 2.6 million and was only slightly higher than a year ago. Since May a year ago, the total labor force increased by 2.7 million persons, practically all of whom found jobs.

→ Personal income continued upward. It reached a record annual rate of \$317 billion in April—6 percent above a year ago.

→ Expenditures for new construction rose in May to \$3.7 billion to equal the previous May high set in 1955. May expenditures, seasonally adjusted, were at an estimated annual rate of \$43.6 billion. Actual outlays in 1955 totaled \$43 billion.

The January-May record total of nearly \$15.8 billion topped the record set in the first 5 months of 1955. Private expenditures totaled \$11.3 billion. A decline in private housing was more than offset by advances in private non-residential building, particularly industrial and commercial.

→ On-the-job injuries increased during the first quarter of 1956. Labor Department estimates put the injury-frequency rate for all manufacturing at 11.9 disabling injuries for every million man-hours worked. This was 3 percent above the first quarter last year.

Injury rates rose in January and declined in March. This is in line with the usual seasonal pattern. The rate has risen in every January on record and has dropped in March in 8 of the 14 years for which data are available.

→ Strike idleness dropped to a total of 1.5 million man-days in April. According to Labor Department data, this was the second lowest level for any April in the postwar period. About 450 strikes were in effect during the month, involving 210,000 workers.

LATEST FACTS ON JOBS AND WAGES				
	MAY	APRIL	YEAR AGO	5 YEARS AGO
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT (MILLIONS)	65.2	64.0	62.7	61.2
WEEKLY WAGES (AVERAGE FACTORY WORKER)	78.40	78.99	76.30	64.15
REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS ¹ (1947-49 DOLLARS)		63.03	61.53	54.89
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1947-49=100)		114.9	114.2	110.9

¹ REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS ARE OBTAINED BY TAKING THE AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING, DEDUCTING THE SOCIAL SECURITY AND FEDERAL INCOME TAXES WHICH WOULD BE APPLIED IF THE AVERAGE WORKER HAS 3 DEPENDENTS, AND THEN ADJUSTING FOR THE CHANGE IN CONSUMER PRICES SINCE THE 1947-49 PERIOD.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS: Recent Gains Negotiated

TEXTILE WORKERS: Wage rates were restored to their 1952 levels at four major New England cotton-textile firms as a result of agreements concluded in April by the Textile Workers Union (AFL-CIO) under wage reopening provisions in their contracts. The wage increases were the first negotiated in the northern cotton textile industry since 1951. They cover about 20,000 employees.

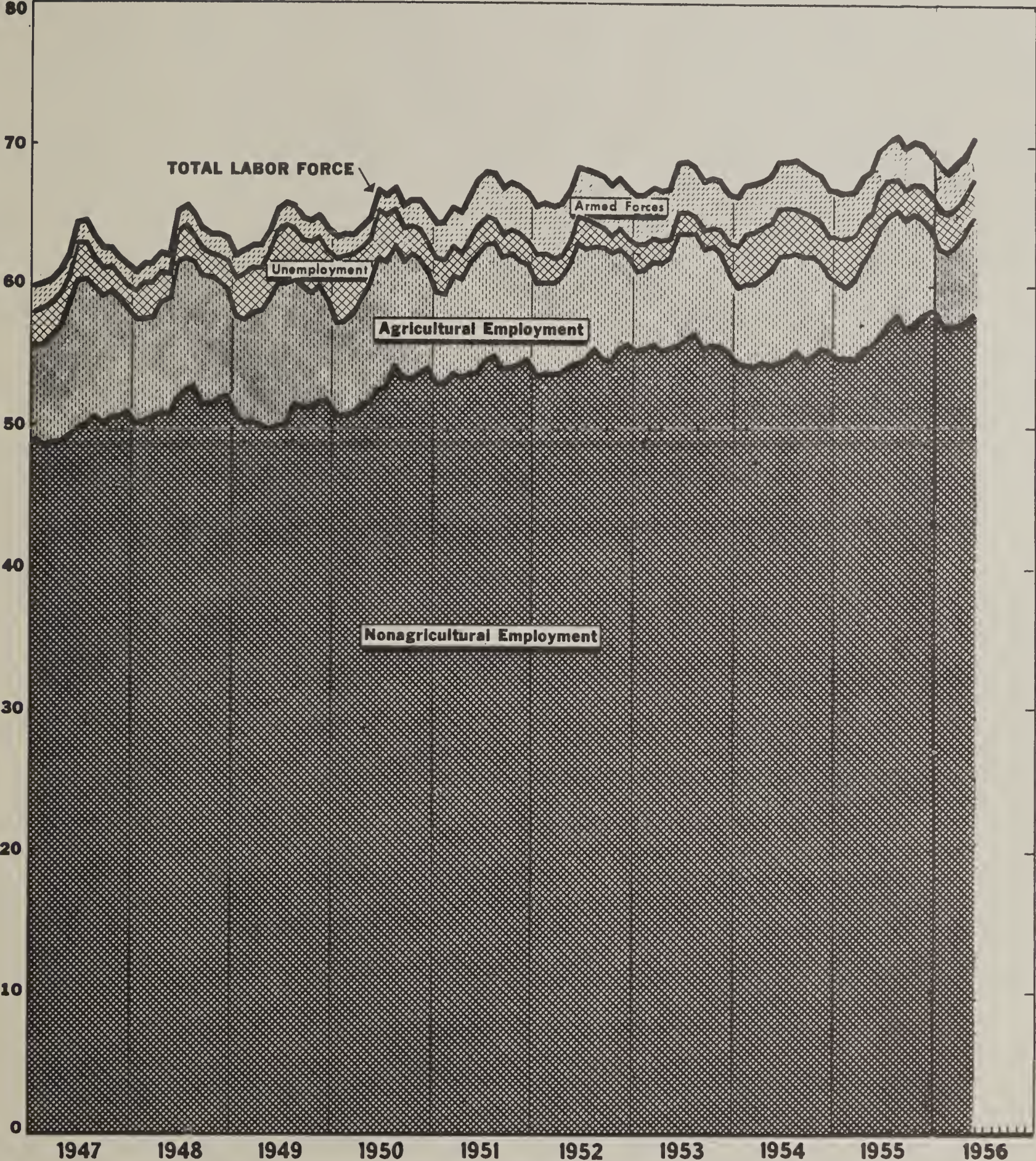
MACHINISTS: Boeing Aircraft Co. signed a 2-year contract with the Machinists' Union (AFL-CIO) covering 21,000 employees in the Seattle (Wash.) area. In line with the Lockheed (Calif.) settlement, the pact provides a pay hike averaging 11 cents the first year and 7 cents the second year for production workers. Other provisions, retroactive to May 22, include upgrading of skilled jobs, regular pay for jury duty, a 2-cent increase for the second shift, increased vacations after 10 years of service, and a \$1,000 life-insurance policy for pensioners.

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS: About 18,000 workers in heavy construction employed mostly on highway projects in Massachusetts received a 3-step wage increase totaling 45 cents an hour. The 3-year pact calls for 15-cent installments effective April 1, 1956, April 1, 1957, and in March 1958. The 3-year contract is the first of such length negotiated by the Hod Carriers' Building and Common Laborers' Union and the Massachusetts labor division of the New England Road Builders Association.

About 7,500 union bricklayers in New York City will receive a 45-cent hourly wage increase during the 2-year period of their new contract. The agreement was negotiated with the Building Contractors and Mason Builders Association of Greater New York. Of the 45 cents, 25 was added on June 1 to the \$3.80 hourly scale, and 20 will be paid as of January 1, 1957.

LABOR FORCE
1947-1956

MILLIONS
OF PERSONS



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FACTS AND SERVICES

June 15, 1956

From The U. S. Department of Labor

Current Publications Available

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR . . . and what it does. Pamphlet tells what the Department does in regard to fact-collecting and statistics, employment security, unemployment insurance, manpower, improving the skills of the work force, labor standards, wages and hours, administration of labor laws, and special services to veterans, women workers, and others. (20 pp. 1956.

U. S. Department of Labor, Office of the Secretary. Single copies free as long as supply lasts.)

SUPPLEMENT TO BULLETIN NO. 161, STATE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION LAWS. Supplement was issued to include action taken by the State legislative sessions in 1955 in the tables contained in Bulletin 161 (State Workmen's Compensation Laws). Only two tables were not affected by 1955 legislation, but for the convenience of the reader, these tables are included in the supplement. (*U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards. Nov. 1955. Single copies free.*)

FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

JUL 19 1956

June 29, 1956

LABOR AND THE ECONOMY

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

→ **Outlays for new construction** are expected to soar to a new high of \$44.5 billion in 1956--4 percent above last year's record of \$43 billion.

The estimated 1956 total is about the same as the estimate made last November. Now the outlook is for greater gains in utilities, private industrial building, and highways, but a somewhat larger decline in new housing.

Public spending is expected to advance 9 percent to \$13.5 billion.

Private outlays probably will total about the same as in 1955--\$31 billion. (See chart, p.2.)

→ **Consumer prices** rose 0.4 percent between April and May as food prices advanced 1.3 percent. The Consumer Price Index for May was 115.4 (1947-49=100). This was 0.3 percent above the previous high for May in 1954, and equal to the all-time peak in October 1953.

The food index rose to 111.0, but was 0.1 below May 1955 and 3.3 percent lower than the peak for May in 1952.

→ **Weekly take-home pay** of factory workers declined between April and May as the workweek shortened, but the average factory production worker could still buy about 1½ percent more goods and services than in May last year.

Net spendable earnings dropped by 1 percent in May as a result of the shorter workweek and higher prices. They were \$71.95 weekly for a worker with 3 dependents and \$64.62 for a worker with no dependents. For both, the May figure was a record for the month and about \$1.65 higher than a year earlier.

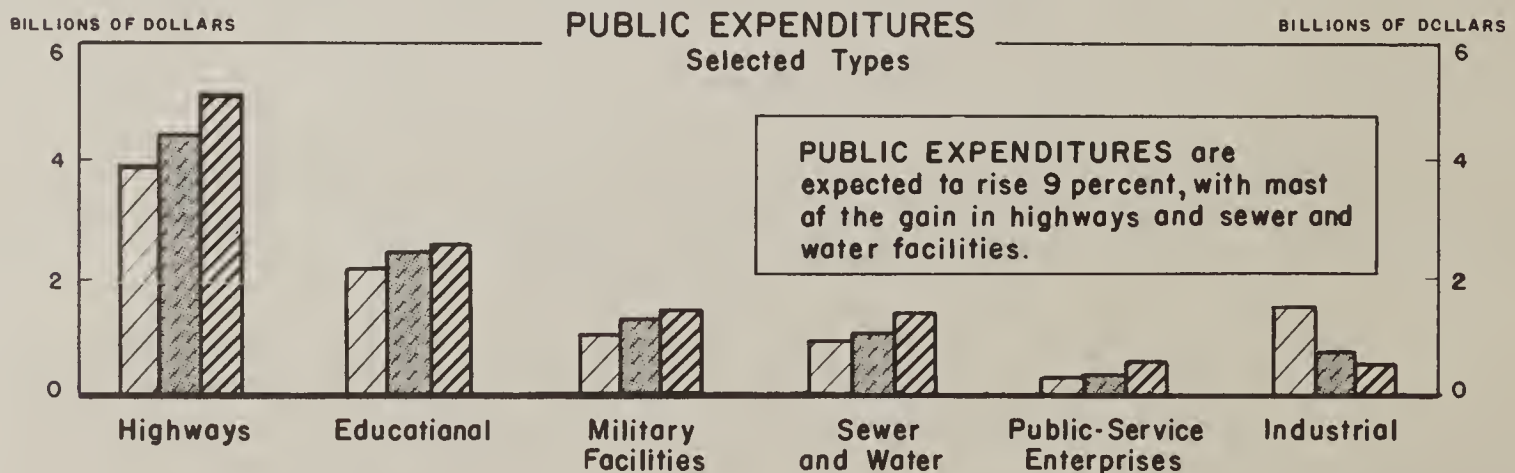
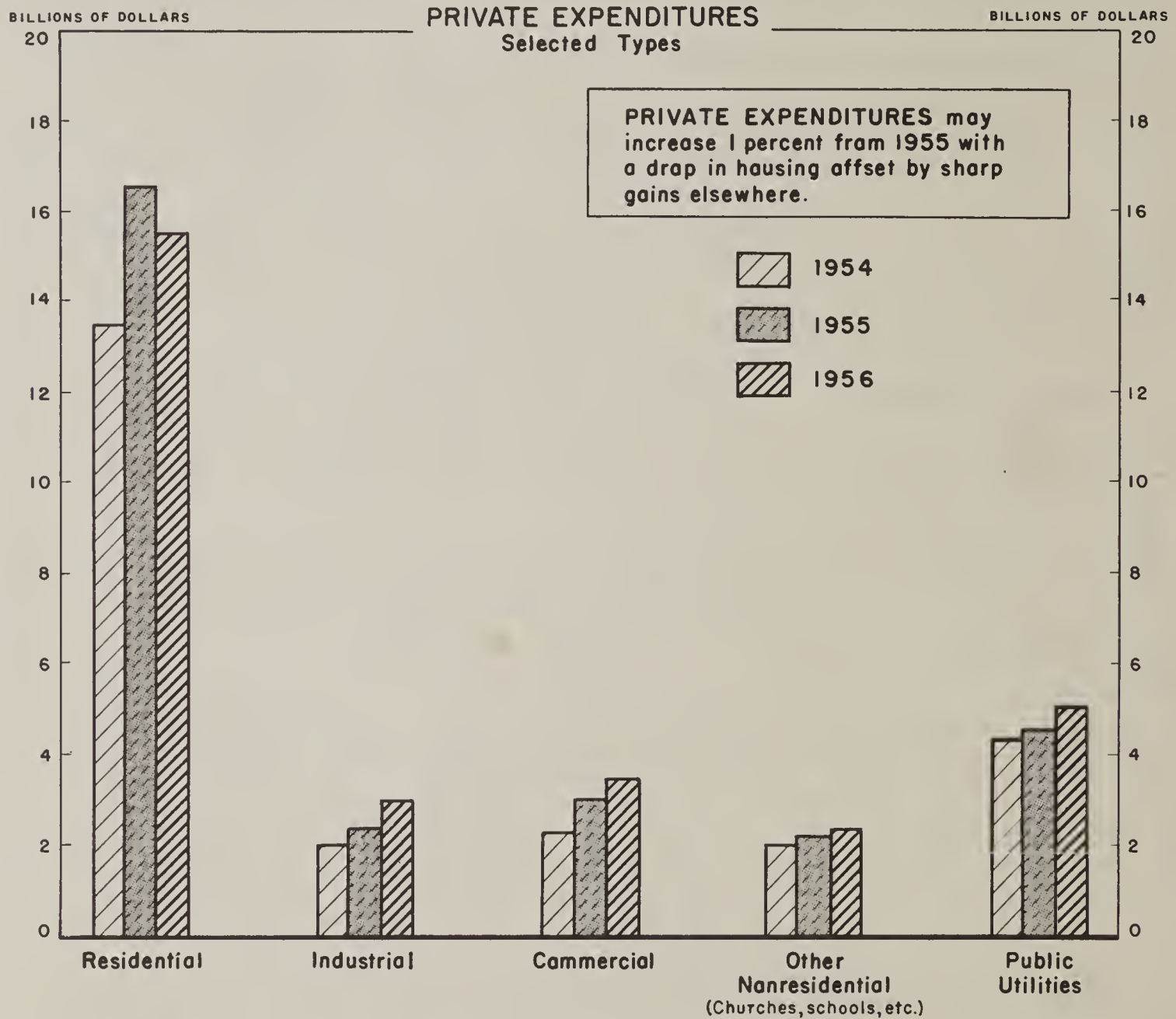
→ **The unemployment rate** for all industries covered by jobless insurance dropped from 3.7 percent in March to 3.4 in April, data released today on the characteristics of the insured unemployed disclosed.

Unemployment among insured factory workers was more than twice as high for women as for men. About 46 percent of the insured jobless were women, although women account for only one-fourth of factory employment.

Average length of insured unemployment remained unchanged over the month at 8.4 weeks. It was shorter--7.8 weeks--in manufacturing because most new unemployment occurred in this group.

JUNE 21, 1956

CONSTRUCTION EXPENDITURES in 1956 are expected to rise to \$44½ billion — about \$1½ billion, or 4 percent, over 1955.



Program Notes

DAVIS-BACON APPLIES TO ROADS BILL

The Davis-Bacon Act will apply to construction under President Eisenhower's new highway program. The new highway bill, passed by Congress this week, provides for a mammoth road-building project to cost over \$33 billion during the next 13 years.

Under the Davis-Bacon Act provision contained in the bill, the Secretary of Labor is empowered to find the prevailing rate of pay for the many thousands of workers who will be engaged on the road-building program. For the Department of Labor, this means making new wage determinations.

Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell has asked that labor unions and contractors' organizations in the highway construction industry help the Department by sending in all collective-bargaining agreements they sign so that these data can be considered in making the determinations. He stressed the importance of keeping current contracts on file so that wage determinations can be up to date. He has asked also that the contracts be accompanied by wage data, project data, and payroll data, showing the typical wages on every job. The Secretary said, "For us to be accurate, it is necessary to have all the facts on hand."

ASSISTANT SECRETARY DODSON GETS HIGH AWARD

James E. Dodson, Administrative Assistant Secretary of Labor, has been named one of the Federal Government's top ten career employees by the National Civil Service League on the recommendation of Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell.

Mr. Dodson, who rose from the position of messenger boy to his present post during his 38 years of continuous Federal service, will receive one of the League's ten Career Service Awards at a banquet at the Sheraton Park Hotel in Washington on July 2. Recipients of the awards, in the words of the League, "exemplify the highest characteristics of the career civil service."

The League, which makes the awards in cooperation with Look magazine, is a non-partisan citizens' association working to improve government through improved civil service.

In recommending Mr. Dodson for the award, Labor Secretary Mitchell said: "Mr. Dodson has devoted nearly 38 years to effective public service ... His is indeed a significant career."

In 1948, Mr. Dodson made a suggestion involving the operation of Government vehicles. In 1949 it was adopted and has resulted in a saving of \$500,000 a year since that time.

From The U. S. Department of Labor

WITH THIS ISSUE—

A new publication, "Structure of the AFL-CIO" is enclosed with this issue of FACTS AND SERVICES.

"Structure of the AFL-CIO" is a supplement to the Labor Department's Directory of National and International Labor Unions in the United States, 1955, which described the structure of the labor movement prior to the merger of the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations. (The Directory was distributed with the November 18, 1955 issue of FACTS AND SERVICES. The Department's supply is now exhausted, but copies are available from the Superintendent of Documents at 45 cents each.)

Current Publications Available

WAGE AND HOUR INTERPRETATIVE BULLETIN 780 - Subpart A- Agriculture. This new publication contains the interpretations of the Department of Labor as to what constitutes "agriculture" for exemption purposes under the Fair Labor Standards Act and the scope and meaning of the terms used in the exemption relating to irrigation activities. The publication is expected to be available about the middle of July. (10 pp., free from U. S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, Washington 25, D. C.)

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OF THE WOMEN'S BUREAU: How To Use Them. Gives such facts about the Women's Bureau as why it was created, what it does, facts the Bureau collects, and how the Bureau gets the facts. Describes the Bureau's services to unions, employers, employment offices, State labor departments, schools, and others, and gives information on the Bureau's international program. (1955. 17 pp. U. S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau. Available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office at 20 cents each. Single copies free from the Labor Department as long as supply lasts.)

WHAT ABOUT WOMEN WORKERS? A Few Facts. Folder answers such questions as how many women workers there are, what fields employ the most women, what percent of all workers are women, and describes the dual role of the woman wage earner and homemaker. (8 pp. Revised 1955. U. S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau. Leaflet No. 18. Available free from the Labor Department.)

FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

July 13, 1956

LABOR AND THE ECONOMY

→ Sixty-six and a half million Americans had jobs in June. Breaking all previous totals, the June employment figure topped the previous peak reached last August by 1 million. As throughout the first half of 1956, June employment was about $2\frac{1}{2}$ million above a year earlier.

Students found jobs in record numbers in June as the school year closed. Young workers accounted for nearly all the 1.3 million increase in employment over the month.

Over-the-month gains boosted employment in most nonfarm activities with the important exception of manufacturing. At all-time highs were contract construction, 3.2 million; finance, 2.3 million; and service, 6.1 million. Trade employment at 11 million and government (Federal, State and local) at 7.1 million were peaks for June.

In manufacturing, employment was up about 60,000 over the month—about half the usual rise—because of cutbacks in the auto industry and its suppliers. The June figure of 16.8 million was 180,000 above last year, despite recent losses.

→ Factory workers earned more money as average weekly earnings rose by \$1 over the month to a record June level of \$79.40. Most industries reported some increase as a result of wage boosts or slightly longer hours of work.

Hours of work of factory production workers rose somewhat less than usual from May to 40.1 hours. Manufacturing hours were down slightly over the year with 19 of 21 industry groups surveyed reporting some loss. In contract construction hours were up sharply.

→ Total unemployment was up 300,000 in June as half a million student job-seekers more than offset the continued decline in unemployment among adult workers. State insured unemployment—which does not include these young job-seekers—decreased by 70,000 to 1.2 million.

The national rate of insured unemployment edged down to 3.1 percent in June.

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FACTS AND SERVICES

from the U. S. Department of Labor

July 13, 1956

LATEST FACTS ON JOBS AND WAGES				
	JUNE	MAY	YEAR AGO	5 YEARS AGO
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT (MILLIONS)	66.5	65.2	64.0	61.8
WEEKLY WAGES (AVERAGE FACTORY WORKER)	79.40	78.40	76.11	64.71
REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS ¹ (1947-49 DOLLARS)	-----	62.35	61.29	55.34
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1947-49=100)	-----	115.4	114.4	110.8

¹ REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS ARE OBTAINED BY TAKING THE AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING, DEDUCTING THE SOCIAL SECURITY AND FEDERAL INCOME TAXES WHICH WOULD BE APPLIED IF THE AVERAGE WORKER HAS 3 DEPENDENTS, AND THEN ADJUSTING FOR THE CHANGE IN CONSUMER PRICES SINCE THE 1947-49 PERIOD.

Program Notes

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR ISSUES NEW PUBLICATION

The United States Department of Labor is releasing a new publication designed to present a nontechnical, comprehensive account of the Department's work during the past year.

This publication, entitled THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR . . . TODAY, is similar in many respects to the Department's 1954 Annual Report in that it describes the Department's activities in a simple, human, and interesting fashion. It includes a number of actual case histories, and contains photographic illustrations.

It is aimed at informing as many persons as possible about the Department's efforts to improve the conditions under which men and women work and live in this country.

The publication is divided into six chapters, which include discussions of such subjects as income insurance, safety and health, migrant labor, law enforcement, child labor, employment problems of older workers, problems relating to the skills of our work force, international labor, labor legislation, and the 1955 economy.

It is 72 pages long and can be bought for 65 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

FACTS AND SERVICES

from the U. S. Department of Labor

July 13, 1956

APPRENTICESHIP SHOWS 16,000 GAIN OVER YEAR

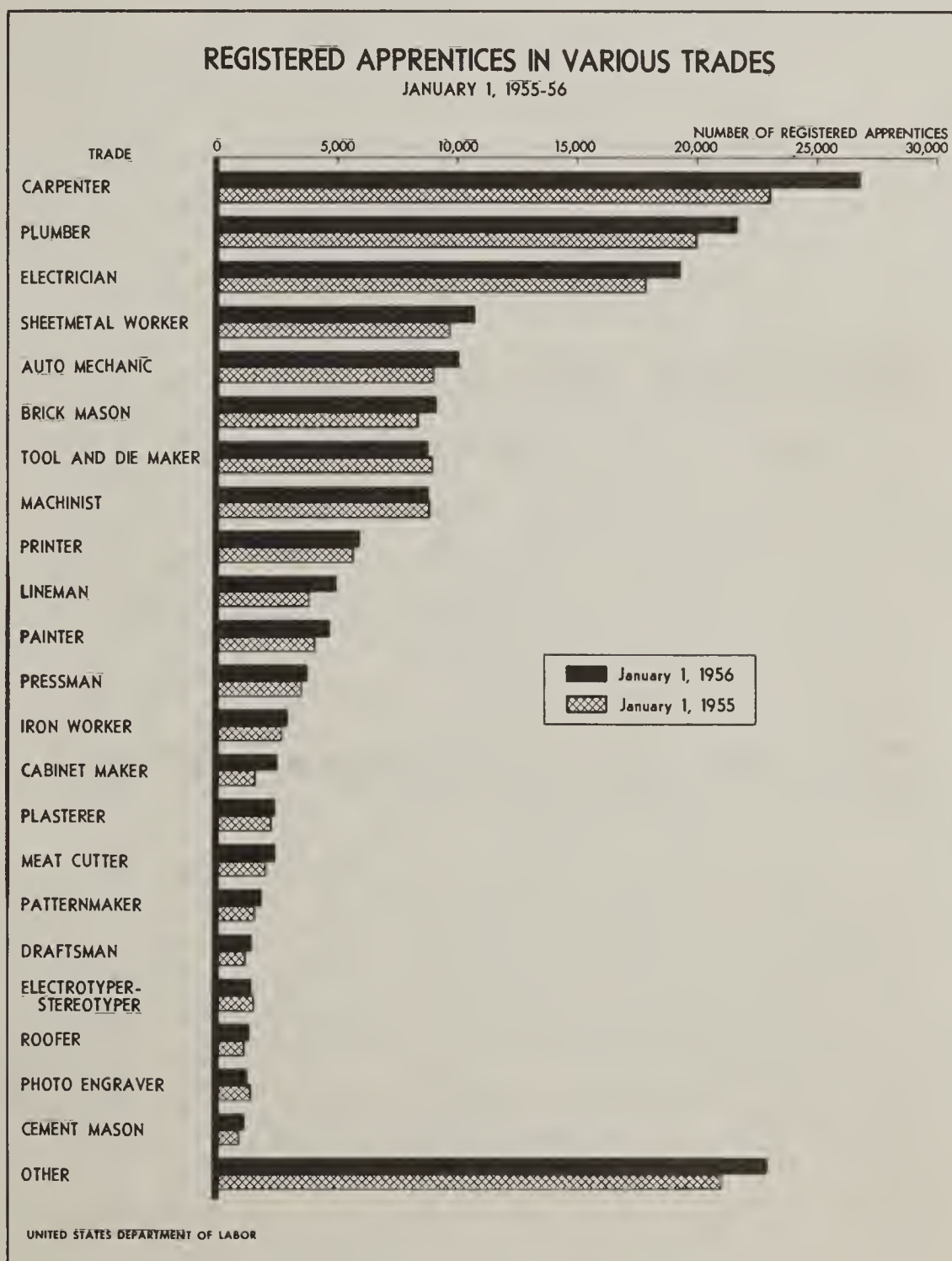
About 16,000 more apprentices were registered with the Labor Department or with State apprenticeship agencies in the first quarter of 1956 than in the same period a year ago.

Six trades accounted for 55.8 percent of the 174,722 apprentices registered in January 1956. They are carpenter, plumber-pipefitter, electrician, sheet metal worker, automobile mechanic, and brickmason.

An improvement in the ratio of apprentices to journeymen was reported by six of nine building trades studied. The greatest improvement was shown by the painters, paperhangers, and glaziers, although this group had a less favorable ratio than the other building trades.

Replacements are not keeping pace with journeymen losses. For every 1,000 journeymen employed during 1955 in the building trades, 16.5 were lost to the industry through death, retirement, or disability, but only 14.4 apprentices completed training programs.

A comparison of the number of registered apprentices with the number of craftsmen employed in the various parts of the country showed that the District of Columbia led with 62 apprentices for every 1,000 craftsmen. Montana had 42 for every 1,000 craftsmen; Minnesota, 33; Connecticut, 32; and Arizona and Wisconsin, 31 each.



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FACTS AND SERVICES

July 13, 1956

From The U. S. Department of Labor

Current Publications Available

HANDY GUIDE TO THE WALSH-HEALEY PUBLIC CONTRACTS ACT. Leaflet gives brief information about the principal provisions of the Walsh-Healey Act, which sets basic labor standards for employees working on Government supply contracts worth more than \$10,000. Summarizes coverage, exemptions, minimum wage, overtime pay, safety and health, child labor, home work, prison labor, special lower rates, records, and other provisions of the law. The Guide lists offices of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions where additional information about the act is available. (12 pages. March 1956. Free copies available from the U. S. Department of Labor, Washington 25, D. C.)

FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

July 27, 1956

LABOR AND THE ECONOMY

→ Food prices, especially for pork and fresh vegetables, pushed the Consumer Price Index to a new high of 116.2 (1947-49=100) in June. The previous record, 115.4, had been set in October 1953 and again in May 1956. The food rise is the result of seasonal factors which have been intensified by poor growing weather for important vegetables such as potatoes, onions, and tomatoes, and by a decreased supply of pigs. Normally, meat prices reach their peak in about September, and the fruits and vegetables index rises until about July.

→ Take-home pay of factory production workers and the amount of goods and services it could buy reached new peaks for June. Net spendable earnings of a worker with three dependents were \$72.75 in June; those of a worker with no dependents, \$65.40. This was a gain of about 80 cents over May and better than \$2.60 over last June. Purchasing power was 2½ percent greater than a year ago.

→ The gross national product rose in the second quarter of 1956 to a new high of \$408.5 billion at a seasonally adjusted annual rate. This was a gain of \$21 billion over the year, with consumption expenditures accounting for about \$12.5 billion of the rise. Business investment in construction and equipment resulted in a rise of nearly \$7 billion.

→ Savings rose \$5 billion in the January-March quarter of this year. This was the sharpest increase in any quarter since the middle of 1952.

→ Profits of manufacturing corporations after taxes were somewhat less in the first quarter of this year than in the previous quarter. They were a little higher, however, than in the first quarter of last year.

→ Unemployment claims trends during the past few weeks have been influenced chiefly by the usual midsummer shutdowns for vacations and inventory taking. Seasonal factors and the steel strike have also contributed to the claims loads in some States.

Continued claims increased in early July. In the week which ended July 21, they totaled 1,240,000—about 60,000 higher than in the third week of June. Claims were some 100,000 higher than a year ago, but still below the 1947-52 average.

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FACTS AND SERVICES

from the U. S. Department of Labor

July 27, 1956

Initial claims totaled 240,000 during the third week of July—somewhat higher than a year ago.

→ Employment conditions continued to improve in most major areas and labor supply tightened significantly in a number of production centers, the Labor Department's bimonthly survey showed.

Fourteen major areas were reclassified because of improving employment, while four were shifted to categories indicating higher unemployment.

Nine areas, including Boston, Baltimore, and Seattle, were moved to Group B, signifying a fairly tight labor supply. There are 52 such areas currently, as against 29 a year ago.

Two areas which for a long time had been classified as having more than 12 percent unemployment—Lawrence and Scranton—reported some improvement this month to between 9 and 12 percent. The number of areas with substantial labor surplus now totals 23 as against 31 a year ago.

CONGRESS APPROVES THREE LABOR MEASURES

The 84th Congress passed 3 of the 16 major legislative recommendations of the Department of Labor.

Congress approved these measures:

1. An amendment to the Longshoremen's and Harbor Workers' Act, liberalizing benefits for about 600,000 workers. The amendment modernized benefit provisions of the law, unchanged since 1948, raising the maximum weekly benefit from \$35 to \$54, reducing the waiting period from 7 to 3 days, increasing maximum benefits for permanent disability from \$11,000 to \$17,280, and providing additional protection to workers covered by the act. This bill was signed by the President on July 26.

2. An amendment to the Universal Military and Service Training Act, clarifying judicial enforcement of reservists' reemployment rights under the act. The President signed this into law on July 9.

3. A bill authorizing the Interstate Commerce Commission to regulate interstate transportation of migrant workers by motor vehicle.

Other Action

The Senate passed a bill, based on a Labor Department recommendation, to provide the District of Columbia with a uniform 26-week unemployment insurance benefit payment and a flat 6-week disqualification period. The House took no action on this measure.

FACTS AND SERVICES

from the U. S. Department of Labor

July 27, 1956

The House passed, with amendments, a proposal to classify as a Federal crime any assault against a Labor Department employee engaged in the enforcement of labor laws. The bill did not come to a vote in the Senate.

LABOR DAY STAMP TO BE ISSUED



The Post Office Department has announced that it is issuing, at the request of Secretary of Labor Mitchell, a 3-cent postage stamp commemorating Labor Day. A total of 120 million of the stamps will be printed.

First day sale will be September 3, 1956 (Labor Day), at Camden, N. J., the home of Peter J. McGuire, the founder of Labor Day.

The stamp design, pictured here, is from a mural by Lumen M. Winter, in the lobby of the new AFL-CIO building in Washington. Color of the stamp will be blue.

PAY UP FOR UNION BUILDING TRADES WORKERS

Increases in union wage scales of building trades workers were widespread during the second quarter of 1956.

Higher pay scales were reported for 3 out of every 5 workers included in the Labor Department's quarterly survey of wage scales in 7 major building trades in 100 cities.

Increases affected 70 percent of the bricklayers and carpenters, 65 percent of the building laborers, 58 percent of the plasterers, and at least 42 percent of the union workers in the other trades. Boosts of 10 cents were provided in about 1 of every 4 wage scale changes, and an increase of 15 cents in 1 of every 5.

Wage increases pushed the estimated average rate of all union building trades workers to \$3.03 an hour. This is 47 percent above the average for the 3 years 1947-49. The rate of advance during the second quarter of 1956 was 2.4 percent.

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FACTS AND SERVICES

July 27, 1956

From The U. S. Department of Labor

Current Publications Available

EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS, Annual Supplement Issue. Covers weekly hours, employment trends, labor turnover rates, State and area statistics, hourly and weekly earnings, and payroll and man-hour indexes. The national employment figures shown in this report have been adjusted to first quarter 1955 benchmarks. Employment data previously published from 1954 to date have also been adjusted to reflect the new benchmarks, but the new benchmarks do not affect figures for 1953 and earlier years. (132 pages, plus explanatory notes. June 1956. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at 70 cents a copy.)

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FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

August 10, 1956

NOTICE

Your next copy of FACTS AND SERVICES will be mailed to you on Labor Day from Camden, N. J., in an envelope bearing the Labor Day stamp, marking the first-day sale of the stamp.

LABOR AND THE ECONOMY

➔ The number of jobholders rose in July to 66.7 million—the highest employment figure recorded in the Nation's history and 1.7 million above July 1955.

➔ Unemployment in July remained virtually unchanged from June. At 2.8 million, it was 4 percent of the labor force. A sizeable decline in the number of teenagers looking for work about offset a moderate rise in joblessness among adult workers.

(Included in the employed total were about 5-½ million workers on vacation and almost another ½ million on strike. Workers out on strike are not counted as unemployed unless seeking other jobs. Those laid off in allied industries are included in the jobless total.)

➔ A new record annual rate was set in July by construction expenditures, which climbed to \$44.4 billion, seasonally adjusted. Actual outlays last year totaled \$43 billion. (See chart page 3.)

July expenditures, at \$4.2 billion, were 5 percent higher than in June. Virtually all types of construction contributed to the rise.

The January-July total hit a record \$24.1 billion, slightly above the same period in 1955, with bigger outlays in public spending and in all private work except hospital and farm building and new dwelling units. (The latter were down 11 percent.)

➔ The newly passed housing act authorized 35,000 public housing units for each of the fiscal years 1957 and 1958. Unused balances for 1956 (about 55,000) may be used in any succeeding year. These units are to be available only to communities with a workable slum-clearance program. No public housing units are provided specifically for the elderly, but they may receive preference and are exempt from some requirements.

The act also extends the home-improvement loan program and increases authority to insure mortgages.

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LATEST FACTS ON JOBS AND WAGES				
	JULY	JUNE	YEAR AGO	5 YEARS AGO 1951
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT (MILLIONS)	66.7	66.5	65.0	62.5
WEEKLY WAGES (AVERAGE FACTORY WORKER)	78.60	79.00	76.36	63.92
REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS ¹ (1947-49 DOLLARS)	-----	72.43	70.32	54.72
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1947-49=100)	-----	116.2	114.7	110.9

¹ REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS ARE OBTAINED BY TAKING THE AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING, DEDUCTING THE SOCIAL SECURITY AND FEDERAL INCOME TAXES WHICH WOULD BE APPLIED IF THE AVERAGE WORKER HAS THREE DEPENDENTS, AND THEN ADJUSTING FOR THE CHANGE IN CONSUMER PRICES SINCE THE 1947-49 PERIOD.

Program Notes

LABOR DAY STATEMENT

By Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell

(FOR RELEASE: LABOR DAY EDITIONS)

Today the hammers and saws are in the tool chests. The machinery of production is stilled. No smoke pours forth from the furnaces of the factories. The typewriters are silent. The cash registers are not announcing the completion of a sale. The Nation and its 66 million workers are at rest.

What has caused the productive might of the Nation to cease and its work force to lay down their tools?

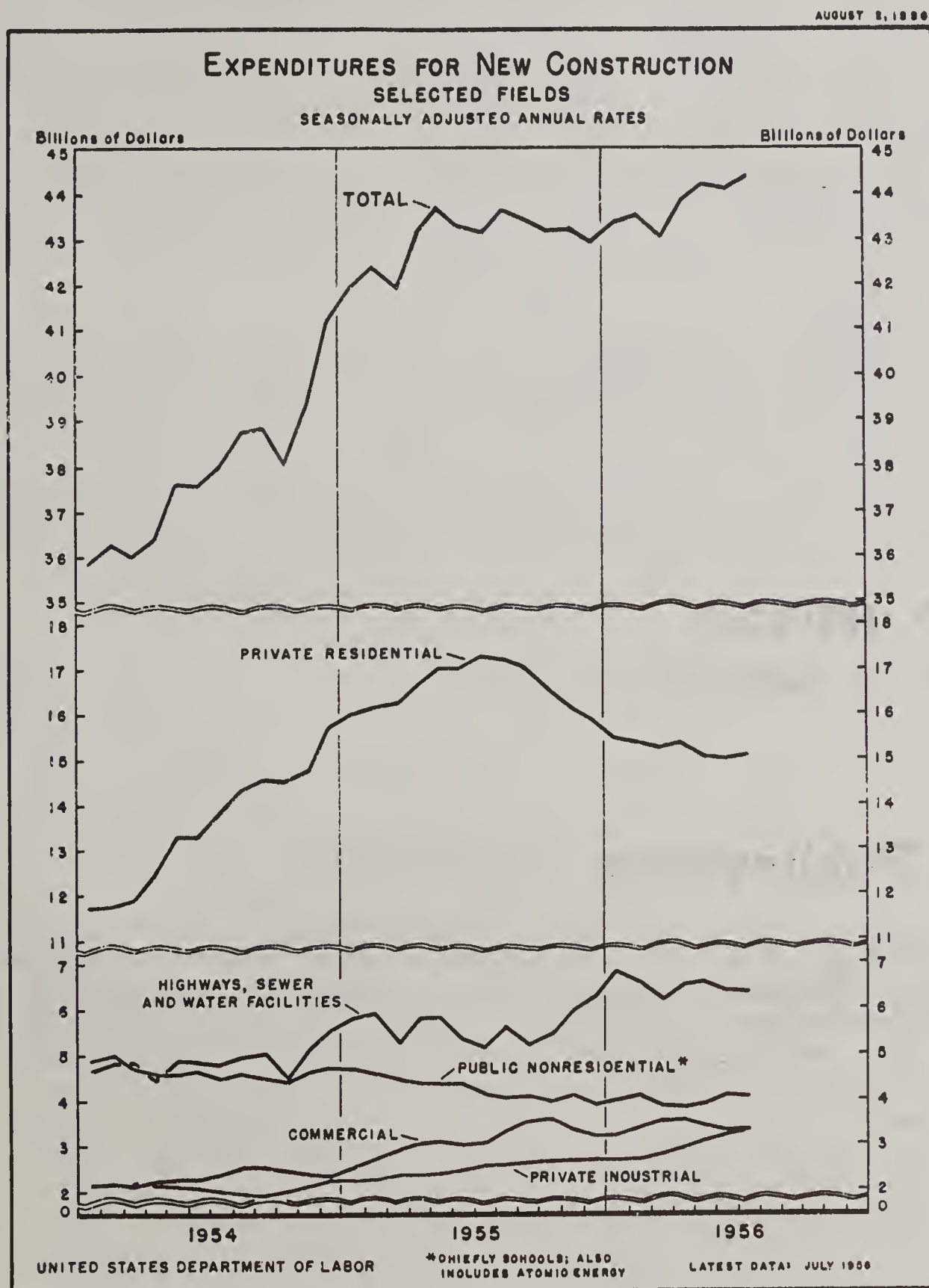
This is our way of paying tribute to the men and women who with their hearts, minds, and hands produce the goods and services of our Nation. It is our way of saying to American labor: Thank you for a job well done. This is an occasion on which we recall that work is a worthy endeavor, that labor is vital to production and progress, and that the workers of the Nation are the strength of the Nation.

How are our working men and women doing? How are they faring in 1956? More are gainfully employed than ever before. They are earning higher wages, and they are able to buy more for themselves and their families with these wages. In short, they are doing better than at any other time in our Nation's history.

This is as it should be. As more and more people own their own homes and share fully in the fruits of their labor, Americans are realizing in ever-increasing numbers the true heritage of this great land. There is at last reason to hope that all Americans may some day share in the dream which led men across treacherous waters from the four corners of the world to our country.

It is the responsibility of all of us in whatever calling, labor, management, or Government, to make sure that the American dream is a reality to an ever-increasing number of our people; that the fruits of our labor are ever more widely distributed; and that the leisure which brings health of body and peace of mind is ever more abundantly available.

This Labor Day 1956 is an appropriate occasion to re-dedicate ourselves to promoting an ever better way of life for all our people. On this day it is also well to remember that the Prince of Peace was Himself a carpenter, and that in His sight our efforts on behalf of working people are ever blessed.



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FACTS AND SERVICES

From The U. S. Department of Labor

AUGUST 10, 1956

Current Publications Available

ANALYSIS OF WORK STOPPAGES 1955: Discusses major issues in work stoppages, industries affected, geographic patterns, unions involved, trends during the year, duration and size of stoppages, disposition of issues, and other related subjects. Tables show, for example, work stoppages: in the United States 1927-55, involving 10,000 or more workers by selected periods, by industry group, union affiliation. (34 pp. June 1956. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bulletin #1196. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office at 30 cents each).

FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

September 3, 1956

NOTE: This issue of FACTS AND SERVICES comes to you directly from Camden, N. J., in an envelope bearing the first-day issue of the Labor Day stamp.

LABOR DAY

"Labor Day . . . is devoted to no man, living or dead; to no sect, race, or nation," wrote Samuel Gompers, founder and long-time president of the American Federation of Labor.

It is a holiday dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American working men and women. It is a tribute to the contributions they have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

Labor Day was first proposed by Peter J. McGuire, of Camden, N. J., general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, at a meeting of the Central Labor Union of New York on May 8, 1882. Such a day, he said, would be for the purpose of honoring "those who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold."

The resolution was adopted and a committee was appointed to plan a street parade, also McGuire's idea, "which would publicly show the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations" to be followed by a picnic. The first Labor Day occurred on September 5, 1882.

The second Labor Day holiday was held by the New York Central Labor Union on September 5, 1883. Then, in 1884, the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, and the central body urged other cities to follow New York's example and celebrate a "workingman's holiday" on that date.

First official recognition of Labor Day appeared in municipal ordinances passed during 1885 and 1886. These led to State legislation. The first bill was introduced in New York State, but the first to become law was passed by the Oregon legislature on February 21, 1887. In the same year, Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York enacted Labor Day legislation. By 1894 a total of 30 States had created holidays in honor of the workers.

SEP 20 1953

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

On June 28, 1894, Congress, without discussion, passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in areas under Federal jurisdiction. By 1923, all 48 States had made it a holiday.

Earlier celebrations consisted of a street parade followed by a festival for workers and their families. Addresses by prominent persons were introduced later.

Today, Labor Day addresses are given not only by leading union officials, but also by industrialists, educators, clergymen, and Government officials. Activities are not only covered in the press; they also are widely carried on radio and television.

In whatever part of the United States Labor Day is celebrated, its meaning to those who take part is clear: it is the day on which the Nation officially honors the creator of its strength, freedom, and leadership—the American worker.

LABOR AND THE ECONOMY

→ The consumer price index rose 0.7 percent between June and July to 117.0 (1947-49=100). Costs of all major groups of goods and services moved up. Food prices again accounted for most of the rise, but were still some 1.5 percent below the peak reached in August 1952.

Wage rates of 1¼ million workers in the automobile, aircraft, and farm machinery industries will go up an average of 4 cents an hour as a result of the rise of the CPI over the last 3 months.

→ Average weekly take-home pay of the factory worker with 3 dependents was \$72.11 in July. This was not much changed from the previous 3 months, but was an all-time high for July. In terms of purchasing power, it was about 1 percent greater than a year ago.

→ Unemployment claims dropped in nearly all parts of the country in mid-August, as the steel industry returned to normal and workers were rehired after the usual mid-summer lull in many lines.

Initial claims were down to 182,000 in the week which ended August 18. The only substantial rise was in Michigan, where the total increased by nearly 6,000.

The rate of insured unemployment declined to 2.8 percent in the week which ended August 11. The highest rates—a little over 6 percent—were in Michigan and Kentucky; the lowest—1 to 2 percent—were in some of the Great Plains and Mountain States where unemployment is seasonally low in summer.

Program Notes

HIGH-SCHOOL DIPLOMA PAYS OFF, SECRETARY TELLS YOUTH

Young people who lack a high-school diploma are finding job competition increasingly difficult, particularly in technological fields, Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell declared recently.

"A high-school diploma not only provides easier access to worthwhile jobs, but also helps on the road to advancement and higher income," the Secretary added. The Labor Department and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare are working together in a joint drive to urge all youngsters who have not graduated from high school to return to their studies this fall.

A Fact Sheet prepared jointly by the two Departments underscores the many lifetime advantages of a high-school education. Readers of FACTS AND SERVICES can help in the drive by pointing out some of the following facts to youngsters who are undecided about returning to high school this year:

- Unemployment rates are half again as high among non-graduates of high school as they are among graduates.
- A high-school education may be worth from \$30,000 to \$50,000 in earnings over a lifetime.
- By the time a worker reaches his peak earning period (45-64) the high-school graduate makes 30 percent more than the drop out.
- Each year of school through the 7th grade adds \$150 to annual income; the 8th grade adds \$303; each year through the 11th grade adds \$238; the 12th grade adds \$466 a year.
- In 1910, over one-third of the workers in the United States were unskilled and worked at jobs that required little education. In 1950, the proportion of unskilled workers was only one-fifth of the total labor force and was declining rapidly.
- There are 71 "shortage" occupations on the Labor Department's list of occupations of current labor market interest. All 71 require a minimum education of 4 years schooling at the high-school level.
- Among young male workers 22 to 24 years of age, 70 percent of all sales and clerical workers, 85 percent of all professional and technical workers, and 45 percent of all craftsmen and service workers have finished high school.
- The Labor Department's Job Guide for Young Workers lists 85 jobs that are usually offered young people of high-school age. Only 23 do not require or prefer a high-school graduate. The odds are 3 to 1 that a young person will need a high-school diploma to get the kind of beginning job he or she wants.

FACTS PROVIDE LITTLE PROTECTION FOR OLDER JOB SEEKERS

Secretary Mitchell earmarks \$one-half million for older applicants

Most collective-bargaining agreements provide little protection for the older job applicant, Secretary of Labor Mitchell declared on the basis of a Labor Department study of the status of the older worker under such agreements.

The study analyzed 1,687 major wage agreements covering 7½ million workers.

Even union membership generally provides no preferential treatment and little protection against discrimination based on age in hiring under the terms of most employee-employer contracts. On the other hand, the worker who has grown old in the service of one employer is assured of a greater degree of protection on the job and more liberal benefits than his juniors.

Secretary Mitchell said this combination of circumstances emphasizes the "tragic situation" of an older person who loses his job, in other than a temporary layoff, after building a considerable amount of seniority in the job.

The study showed that it is relatively rare that employee-employer contracts contain provisions to help older workers seeking employment, although some ban maximum hiring ages or age discrimination. Discharge or layoff based on age alone is generally prohibited by agreements. About 1 in 6 contains provisions for dismissal or severance pay based on length of service.

Only 1 in 22 contracts included clauses which encouraged or required hiring of older workers. In 23 building trades agreements, there were stipulations that a certain percentage of journeymen hired should be above a certain age.

The report is the second in the Department's series on the problems, performance, and skills of men and women who have passed the age of 45. As a result of the first study, showing the need for expanded job counseling and placement services for older workers, Secretary Mitchell earmarked \$449,500 for such services.

This action, taken in mid-August, makes available to State employment security agencies money to hire specialists to assist older job applicants with employment problems.

Surveys conducted by the State agencies in seven major cities showed that local office placements among an experimental group of older workers receiving special services were almost five times as great as those in a similar age group given normal services.

"The ultimate success of this program will depend upon employer, union, and public cooperation in considering older workers on the basis of their individual ability to perform a job rather than on chronological age," the Secretary declared.

FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

September 21, 1956

LABOR AND THE ECONOMY

➔ Employment reached a new all-time record of 66.8 million in August. This was 1.3 million above last year's peak, also reached in August.

Gains over the year were all in nonfarm employment, which rose 1½ million to 59.5 million. Farm employment was about 300,000 below that of a year ago.

➔ Total unemployment declined to 2.2 million in August, equal to the level in the same month of last year. In May, June, and July, unemployment had been running somewhat above last year's marks.

The rate of unemployment was 3.2 percent of the civilian labor force in August--as low as in any month of the past 2½ years. (In August, 1955, it was 3.3 percent.) Drops in unemployment generally occur in the fall, with October marking the seasonal low point. Total employment also tends to decline in the fall as students leave the labor force and farm work slackens.

➔ Average weekly earnings in manufacturing industries rose to \$79.79 in August, an all-time high. In the first 7 months of this year, earnings remained close to \$79, with the seasonal decline in the workweek offsetting the upward trend in hourly earnings.

➔ Business expenditures on new plant and equipment, which rose about 10 percent in the first half of this year, are now expected to increase another 10 percent by the end of the year.

➔ Construction expenditures in August remained at an all-time high annual rate of \$44.3 billion, after seasonal adjustment. Private industrial construction is gaining more slowly now than it was earlier in the year.

➔ Injury frequency rates in manufacturing for the second quarter, 1956, were at a new low for the period—11.9 for each million employee hours worked. The rate for June was the lowest ever recorded for the month, 12.0. The average for the first 6 months this year was 11.9—slightly higher than in the same period of 1955, but below that of 1954.

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

LATEST FACTS ON JOBS AND WAGES				
	AUGUST	JULY	YEAR AGO	5 YEARS AGO 1951
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT (MILLIONS)	66.8	66.7	65.5	62.6
WEEKLY WAGES (AVERAGE FACTORY WORKER)	79.79	78.80	76.33	64.08
REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS ¹ (1947-49 DOLLARS)	73.06	72.27	70.29	60.81
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1947-49=100)	-----	117.0	114.5	110.9

¹ REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS ARE OBTAINED BY TAKING THE AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING, DEDUCTING THE SOCIAL SECURITY AND FEDERAL INCOME TAXES WHICH WOULD BE APPLIED IF THE AVERAGE WORKER HAS THREE DEPENDENTS, AND THEN ADJUSTING FOR THE CHANGE IN CONSUMER PRICES SINCE THE 1947-49 PERIOD.

Program Notes

PENSION COSTS SHOULD NOT BAR OLDER WORKERS

The cost of private pension plans should be no real obstacle in hiring older workers, a new Labor Department study indicates.

The report, which will be published October 1, is the latest in a series of Labor Department studies designed to provide the first comprehensive information about older workers and thereby help to remove artificial barriers to their employment. (For summaries of earlier reports, see FACTS AND SERVICES, Labor Day issue.)

In announcing the study on pension costs, Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell called on employers "to re-examine hiring practices which discriminate against older job applicants on the theory that they unduly increase the ultimate cost of company pension plans." The older worker, hired later in life, is likely to receive a smaller pension for a shorter time than the younger worker who spends most of his working life with a single company, as pensions usually are based on length of service and the size of earnings in the years just before retirement.

Secretary Mitchell questioned the argument sometimes advanced by employers that they cannot hire older workers because of the danger of community criticism of employers who retire workers on small pensions. He pointed out that most older workers already have earned substantial benefits under Social Security, and even a small pension enhances their old-age security.

Another study in the series—a pilot study of job performance by age in 8 industrial plants—indicates that age alone is not a reliable measurement of job performance. This study explored output per man-hour, attendance, separation rates, and injuries, by age. It found that output of piece rate workers remained stable through age 54. Output of those age 55-64 was at least 90 percent as high as that in any younger group. The study clearly showed a great variation in the output of workers, even within age groups.

OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE, U. S., 1975

What will the occupational structure of the United States look like in 1975?

Here are some predictions, assuming a continuation of the basic trends that have been operating in this country during the first half of this century—

The population is expected to increase by about 55 millions, with increased demand for additional consumer goods, housing, highways, and a doubling of the gross national product, assuming productivity increases of the kind we have had up to now.

These developments would call for about 20 million more jobs. Changes in the occupational structure brought by these added jobs are shown in the chart below, on the basis of studies and projections made so far.

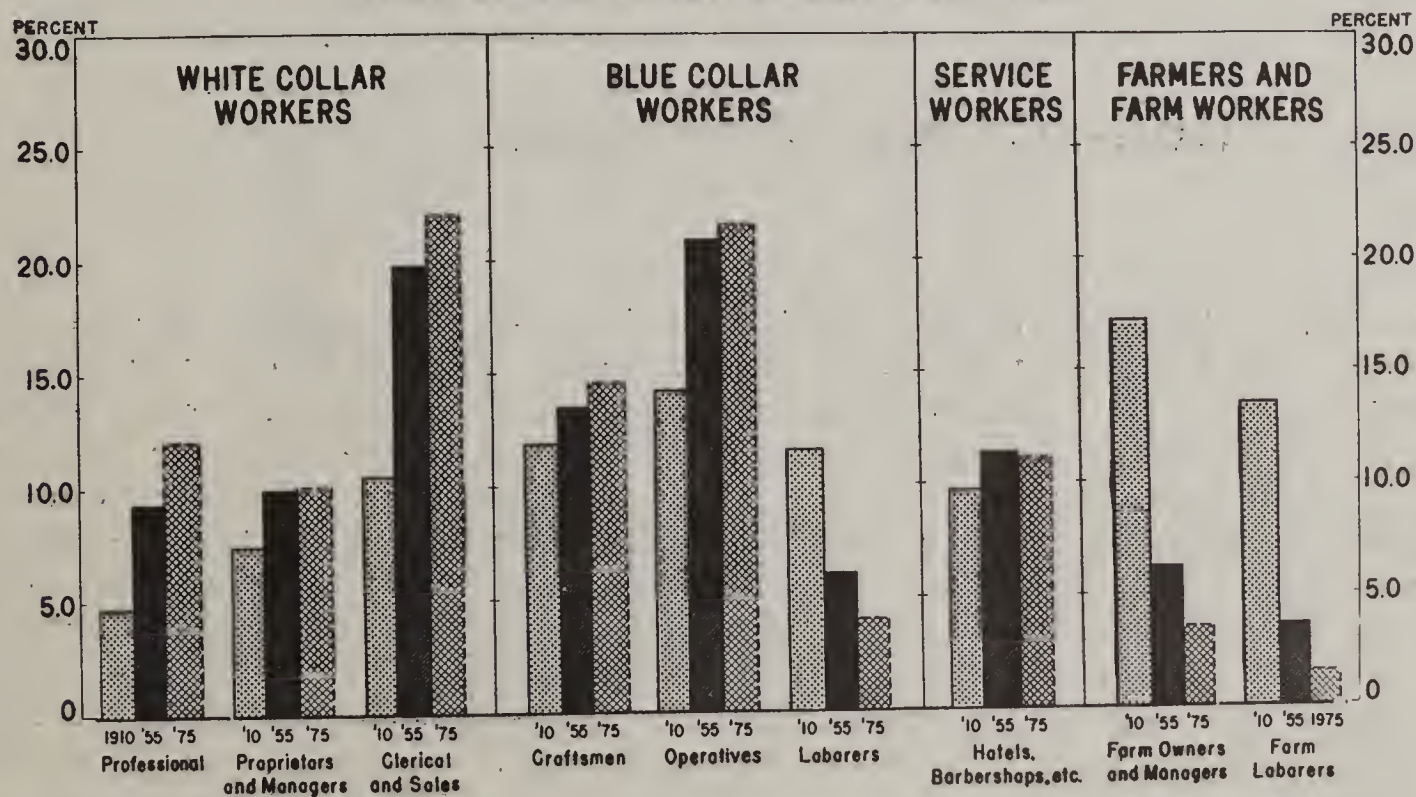
Professional personnel may hit the 10 million mark by 1975, accounting for about 1 of every 8 workers. Other white collar occupations also are expected to increase, especially clerical and sales workers. There are already more white collar workers than blue collar workers in the American labor force.

Industrial workers at the craftsmen (skilled) and operative (semiskilled) levels are expected to expand both numerically and percentage-wise.

An actual decline in the number of farm workers and less-skilled laborers is indicated, despite the expected 20 million increase in total employment.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE MAJOR OCCUPATIONS 1910, 1955, AND PROJECTED 1975

PERCENT OF TOTAL WORKERS ENGAGED IN EACH FIELD



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
and U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

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FACTS AND SERVICES

From The U. S. Department of Labor

September 21, 1956

Current Publications Available

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN BEAUTY SERVICE. This bulletin is one of a series of Women's Bureau reports on occupational opportunities for women. It gives information on such subjects as training, entrance requirements, earnings, and advancement. The report includes discussions of State wage and hour regulations applying to beauty shop employees, and to matters especially important to the woman who wants to open her own beauty shop. It discusses beauty culture as an expanding field, reasons for increasing opportunity, beauty work for women of all ages, location and variety of opportunity, beauty service as a field for handicapped workers, and other topics. (51 pp. August 1956. U. S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau, Bulletin #260. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office at 25 cents each. Single copies free from the Department while supply lasts).

FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

October 5, 1956

LABOR AND THE ECONOMY

→ The buying power of factory take-home pay in August was at a record for the month, 2 percent greater than a year ago.

Take-home pay of the average factory worker supporting three dependents rose to an all-time high of \$73.06 in August, after deduction of Federal income and social security taxes.

Further gains in factory wages and purchasing power appear probable as a result of widespread wage advances and seasonal increases in hours of work.

→ Families with relatively low cash incomes (under \$2,000) declined from a total of 7.9 million in 1952 to 7.4 million in 1955.

Higher-income families (\$4,000 and over) increased from nearly 20 million in 1952 to 24-1/3 million in 1955. Half of all families in 1955 received at least \$4,421. In 1952, this median figure had been \$3,890. This was an increase of 14 percent.

These gains occurred among urban families. Median income of rural farm families declined 5 percent, from \$2,226 in 1952 to \$2,111 in 1955.

→ Disposable personal income (after all taxes) averaged a record \$1,698 for each member of the population in the second quarter of this year.

→ Unemployment claims in late September were declining seasonally except in automobile and some textile areas.

Weeks of unemployment represented by continued claims dropped to 988,000 in the week which ended September 22. This was about 40,000 below a month earlier and 130,000 higher than in the same period last year.

→ Fifty-four major areas in the Department's bi-monthly survey of 149 major labor market areas were listed in September as having labor supply and demand near a balance. This was 14 more than a year ago. On the other hand, substantial labor surpluses existed in 24 areas. There were 26 in this group a year ago.

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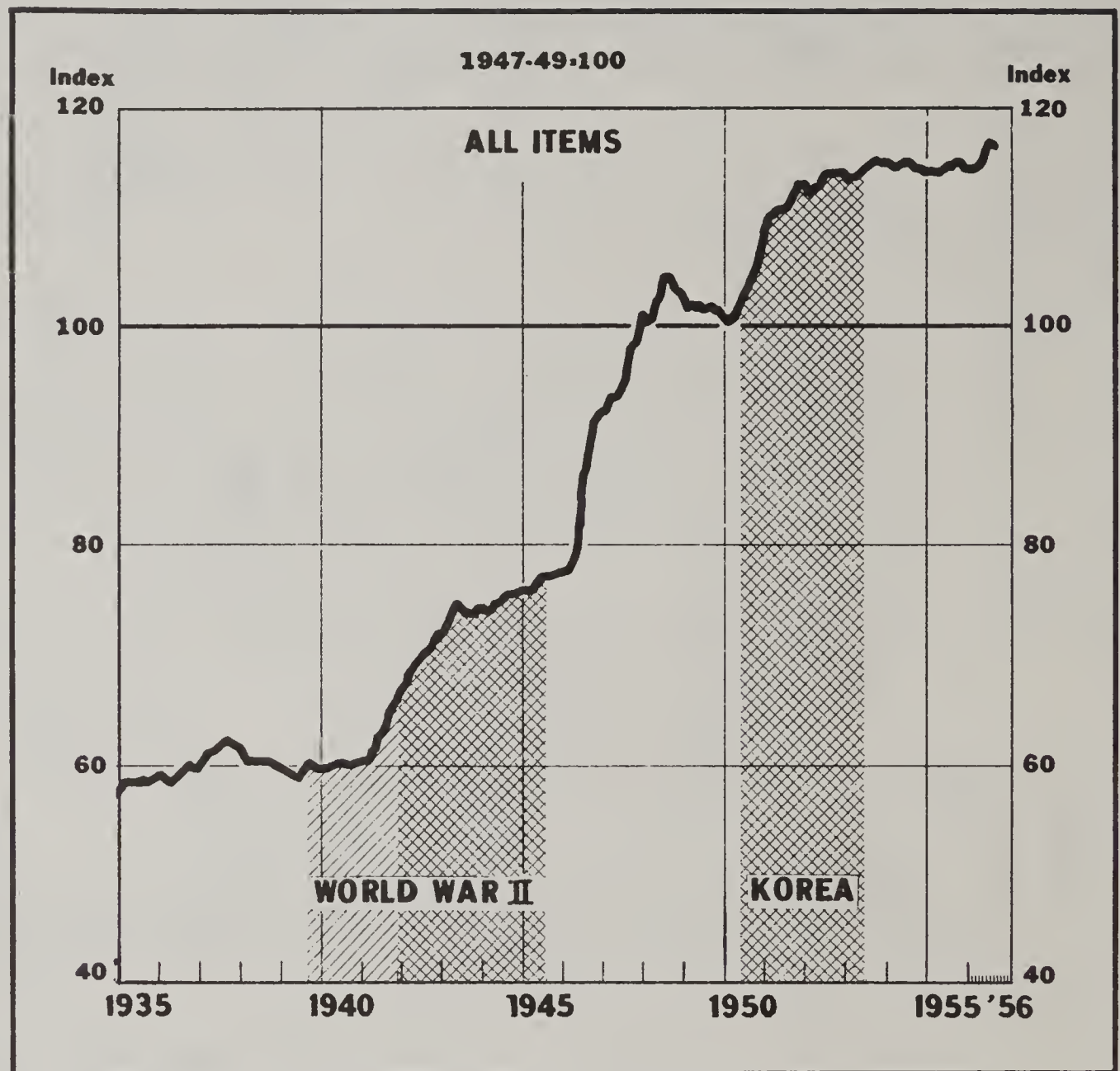
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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

FOR WAGE-EARNER AND CLERICAL-WORKER FAMILIES IN U.S. CITIES

The Consumer Price Index declined slightly in August after rising since late spring.



Program Notes

OLDER WORKERS GET 22 PERCENT OF JOBS

Department To Publish Further Facts on Workers 45 and Over

Workers 45 years old and older represented an average of 22 percent of all persons hired in major industries over a one-year period, a new Labor Department study conducted in 7 major cities showed.

Older workers represented more than one-third of the employed and 40 percent of the job seekers at local employment offices in the cities covered.

The study found that firms with pension plans are less likely to hire older workers. They hired only about 17 older workers per 100 employees, while firms without pension plans hired about 45 per 100.

Entitled "Older Worker Adjustments to Labor Market Practices," the study is one of two new reports in the Department's older worker series scheduled for publication during the next month. This study will be available November 1, and establishes these facts about older workers:

UNEMPLOYED OLDER WORKERS—

Were more highly skilled. Of the workers sampled, twice as many older job seekers as younger job seekers had held skilled jobs.

Were more stable. More than one-half had held only one job for the past 3 years, compared with one-third of those under 45.

Were flexible. One in 4 older job seekers changed occupations in order to get work.

Had less formal schooling. Only one in 5 had completed high school, compared with one in 3 of the younger unemployed.

Remained unemployed for longer periods than younger workers. This held true for all educational levels, all skills, and all industries.

EMPLOYED OLDER WORKERS—

Held more than their proportionate share of jobs in skilled, managerial, sales, and service occupations. Proportions ranged from 31 percent in finance, insurance, and real estate to 37 percent in construction and service. The over-all average was 35 percent.

Made up about 36 percent of employed men, but only 30 percent of employed women.

Sixty-five percent of them were covered by pension plans compared with 68 percent of those under 45.

The study also showed that annual hiring rates were substantially higher for workers under 45—71 per 100 employed compared with 38 per 100 older workers. The quit rate of older workers was only 11 per 100, compared with 30 per 100 for workers under 45. The discharge rate of older workers was only 4 per 100, compared with 7 per 100 for workers under 45.

Another study in the Department's comprehensive program relating to older workers "The Older Worker Under Health, Insurance, and Pension Plans," will be available October 19. It shows that older workers generally do not find age a barrier to coverage under collectively bargained health and insurance plans, but pension plans frequently have provisions which bar new employees in the higher age brackets from ever receiving benefits. It will be published as Part II of two reports. Part I is now available (see page 4).

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FACTS AND SERVICES

From The U. S. Department of Labor

October 5, 1956

Current Publications Available

OLDER WORKERS UNDER COLLECTIVE BARGAINING. Part I—Hiring, Retention, Job Termination. This report covers provisions of the basic agreement affecting the employment and retention of older workers. Practices that tend to deter, as well as those conducive to the hiring and retention of older workers are given the emphasis that their prevalence and significance appear to merit. Agreements analyzed were in effect in 1955 or 1956. The 1,687 major agreements studied covered approximately 7-1/2 million workers in virtually all major manufacturing and nonmanufacturing industry groups. (*U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics Bulletin No. 1199-1. 30 pages. September 1956. Available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. at 25 cents each.*)

FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

October 19, 1956

LABOR AND THE ECONOMY

➔ **For the first time**, average hourly earnings of factory production workers reached the \$2 level in September. Weekly earnings rose to \$81, passing the \$80 mark for the first time.

The increase in factory weekly earnings over the past year—\$3.30—was due to large increases in wage rates in practically every major group.

Workers are earning more than factory workers in wholesale trade (about \$82); railroads and local transportation (about \$86); gas and electric utilities (about \$92); metal mining (about \$97); bituminous coal (about \$103); and contract construction (about \$105). In all these groups, the over-the-year rise has been greater than that in manufacturing.

In the service industries, on the other hand, available data generally show average weekly earnings of about half these amounts, and gains over the year of between \$1 and \$2.

➔ **Employment on nonfarm payrolls** rose to a new high in September, reaching 52,130,000. This was 1.1 million greater than in September 1955, and 135,000 above the previous record established in December 1955.

The month's rise, however, 250,000, was a little less than usual at this time of year. This year, employment in contract construction and automobile manufacturing was down more than usual, and the rise in retail trade was less than seasonal.

➔ **Both total employment and unemployment** dropped as young people left jobs or stopped looking for jobs to return to school. In September, total employment was down 700,000 from August to 66.1 million, but was over 1.3 million above a year ago. Unemployment continued down, by 200,000 over the month, to 2 million in September.

➔ **New construction outlays** exceeded \$4.2 billion for the third consecutive month in September. This brought the third-quarter total to nearly \$12.8 billion, the highest quarterly figure yet recorded. New monthly highs were set in some sectors, but private residential building for the quarter, \$4.3 billion, was 10 percent below that of last year.

Nonfarm housing starts declined more than seasonally in September to 93,000 dwelling units. The 8,000 decrease from August was entirely in private housing, chiefly in metropolitan areas.

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LATEST FACTS ON JOBS AND WAGES				
	SEPTEMBER	AUGUST	YEAR AGO	5 YEARS AGO 1951
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT (MILLIONS)	66.1	66.8	64.7	61.6
WEEKLY EARNINGS, MANUFACTURING	81.00	79.60	77.71	65.37
NET SPENDABLE EARNINGS (WORKER WITH 3 DEPENDENTS) ¹	74.04	72.91	71.40	61.85
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1947-49 = 100)	...	116.8	114.9	111.6

¹ NET SPENDABLE EARNINGS ARE OBTAINED BY DEDUCTING APPLICABLE SOCIAL SECURITY AND FEDERAL INCOME TAXES FROM THE AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING.

Program Notes

LABOR DEPARTMENT ISSUES 'AMERICAN WORKER'S FACT BOOK'

"The American Worker's Fact Book," a 450-page volume of background information on labor matters, is being published by the U. S. Department of Labor. It is the first compilation of such comprehensive coverage ever published by the Government in the labor field.

The book is intended as a simplified source of information for persons interested in labor matters. It is written in plain language, avoiding technical wording and complicated statistics so as to be more useful to the lay reader.

It is expected that the book will be particularly useful to labor leaders, businessmen, legislators, newspaper editors, and broadcasters, and to high school and college students as a primary reference.

The work includes 138 topics grouped under a few major headings, with cross references. Included among the topics are discussions of the size and characteristics of the labor force, an analysis of the labor market, and data on unemployment. There is a section on the relationship of earnings, living standards, and the Nation's productivity.

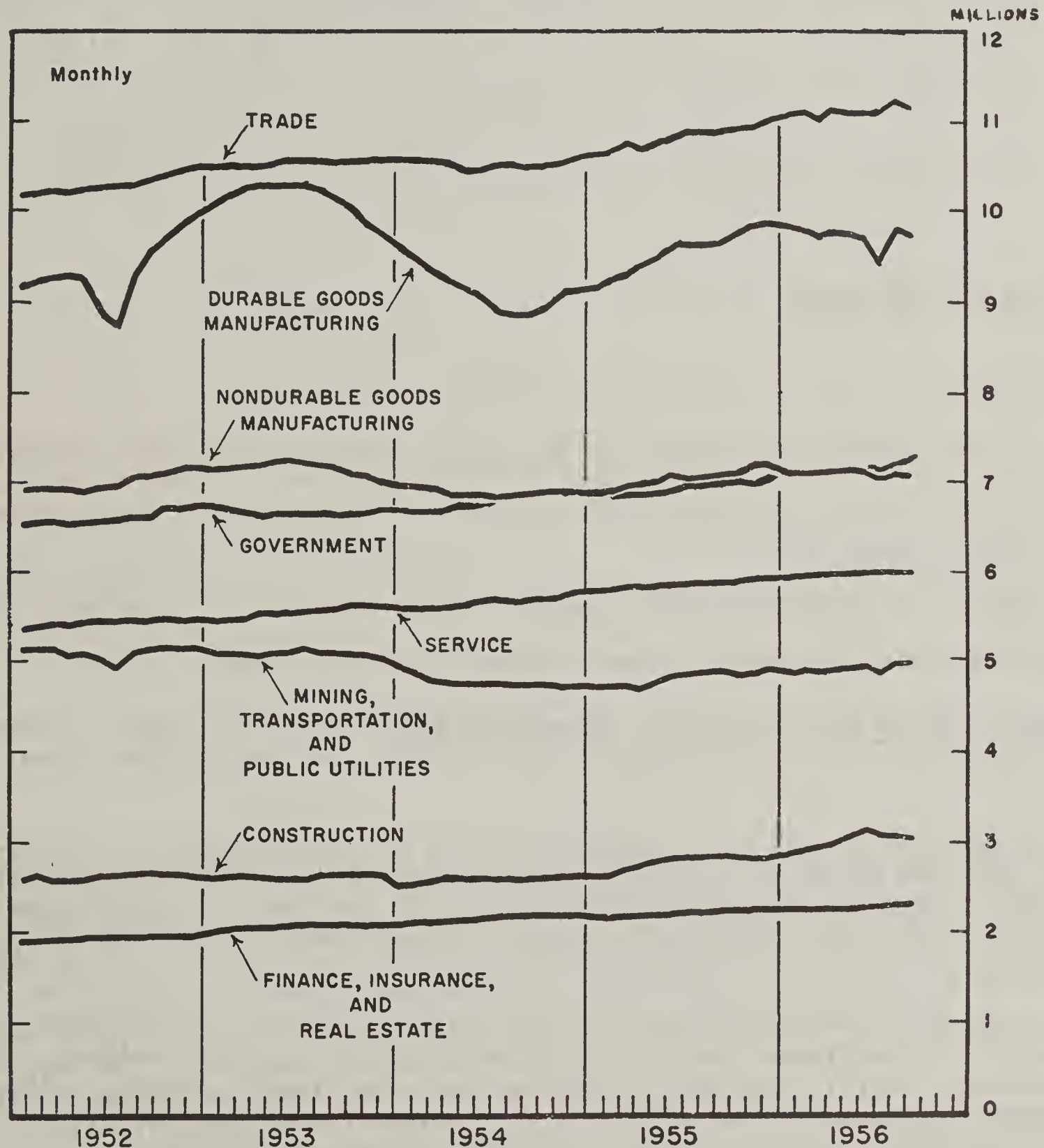
The employment problems of older workers, the physically handicapped, youth, and other segments of the labor force are covered in special chapters. The book also deals with labor legislation, job and old age security, labor-management relations and collective bargaining, the role of unions, international labor relations, the relation between government and worker, and many other topics.

Nearly 100 tables and charts are included and chapter headings are illustrated with line drawings.

"The American Workers' Fact Book" will be available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., beginning October 22. Cost is \$1.50 a copy. A discount of 25 percent is given on orders of 100 or more copies.

EMPLOYEES IN NONAGRICULTURAL ESTABLISHMENTS

Seasonally Adjusted



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FACTS AND SERVICES

October 19, 1956

From The U. S. Department of Labor

Current Publications Available

HOW TO CONDUCT AN EARNING OPPORTUNITIES FORUM IN YOUR COMMUNITY. Pamphlet explains that an earning opportunities forum is a new approach to finding jobs for mature women. The forum is a one-day meeting which brings together women who are seeking earning opportunities, representatives of employers who are seeking workers, and members of the community interested in helping mature women to find jobs. Pilot programs organized by the Department of Labor have been held in Boston, Mass., and Baltimore, Md. The pamphlet tells how to organize and set up such a forum in the community and is one of the seven new reports on the Department of Labor's Older Worker Program. (16 pp. October 1956. U. S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau, Leaflet No. 25. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at 15 cents each. Single copies free from the Department while supply lasts.)

FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

November 9, 1956

LABOR AND THE ECONOMY

→ The consumer price index rose in September to 117.1 (1947-49=100), edging past the previous all-time high reached in July. The past year's increase in take-home pay has been so substantial, however, that the purchasing power of the average factory worker was at a new high for the month, 2 percent greater than a year ago. (See chart, p.3.)

Prices rose in September for all major groups of goods and services except food, which remained at the August level. Food prices were 1.3 percent higher than a year ago, but 3.0 percent lower than the peak in August 1952.

The sharpest increase was in apparel, with the apparel index at the highest level since February 1952. It was still some 2.6 percent below the peak of 5 years ago.

→ Take-home pay of the average factory worker supporting three dependents reached an all-time high of over \$74 in September, about \$2.60 more than a year earlier. This increase was more than enough to offset the rise in consumer prices.

→ Total employment, at 66.2 million in October, was up a million from a year earlier, with the year's gains all in nonfarm employment. About 70 percent of the year's increase was among women.

→ Unemployment dropped in October to 1.9 million, about 200,000 below a year ago. The rate of unemployment—2.8 percent of the civilian labor force—was slightly higher than in October 1948, but otherwise was at a low for any non-defense-period October since 1930.

→ The gross national product, (measured in seasonally adjusted current dollars) increased \$4.7 billion in the third quarter to an annual rate of \$413 billion. The recent gain was due mainly to higher prices but the rise in the past year of more than \$16 billion represented a substantial gain in real output.

→ Privately financed housing starts dropped to an annual rate of 1 million in September. This was the lowest since early 1952.

The decline in housing starts was widespread throughout the country but was particularly sharp in the Far West.

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Program Notes

NEW YORK TIMES PRAISES DEPARTMENT'S 'FACT BOOK'

"A story of economic progress more exciting than a shelf full of Horatio Alger novels ..." is how a recent article in the New York Times described "The American Workers' Fact Book," released last month by the U. S. Department of Labor.

The article continued: "Through charts, statistical tables, and simple explanatory text, it (the Fact Book) shows what the growth of the national economy has meant in higher living standards, increased enjoyment of leisure, and a broader distribution of wealth."

In a discussion of the book's scope, the Times article stated: "The book contains a great array of statistics sandwiched among discussions of women workers, child labor, workmen's compensation, the Taft-Hartley Act, the functions of unions, and scores of other topics."

In the foreword to the book, James P. Mitchell, Secretary of Labor, expresses the hope that the volume will prove useful to unions, businessmen, legislators, editors, and students. Copies of the Fact Book may be obtained at \$1.50 each from the Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. (A discount of 25 percent is given on orders of 100 or more.) The Department's limited supply of copies for free distribution has already been exhausted.

BUILDING COMMITTEE ON T-H REVISION TO BE FORMED

Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell has announced that he would form a committee composed of representatives of the Construction Industry and the Building Trades Department of the AFL-CIO to develop specific recommendations for the amendment of the Taft-Hartley Act with reference to its application to the building and construction trades.

Secretary Mitchell said: "This is only the first step in the overhaul of the Taft-Hartley Act. I plan to call this committee into being before January 1st because, as we have always recognized, under the act the building and construction trades have special problems which must be dealt with."

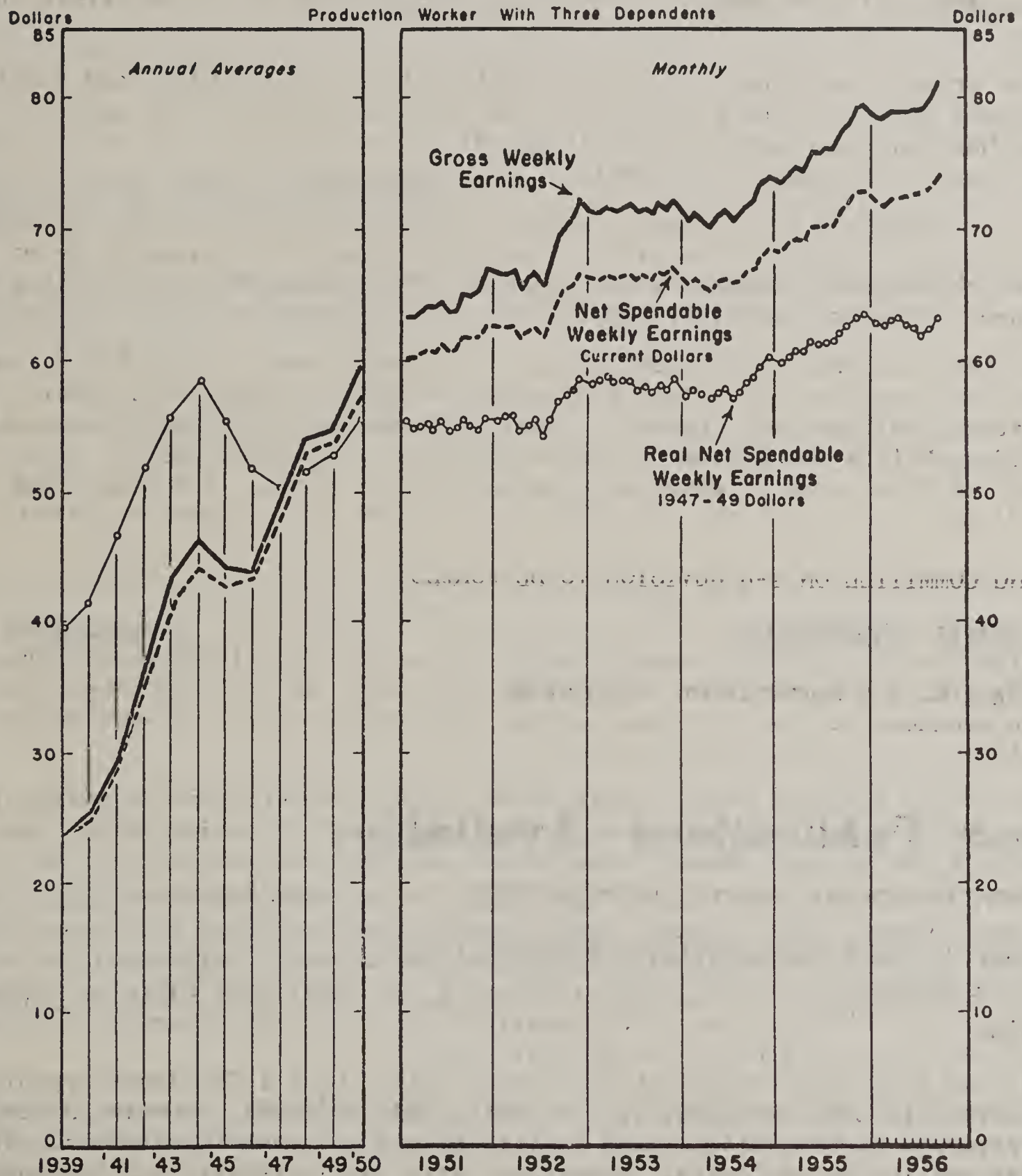
DIRECTORY OF LABOR ORGANIZATIONS IN EUROPE ISSUED

The Labor Department has issued a 580-page Directory of Labor Organizations in Europe.

In two looseleaf volumes the Directory lists about 1,700 labor organizations with total claimed membership of nearly 100 millions, treating 30 countries or territories of both Western and Eastern Europe in separate chapters. It gives such information as addresses, membership, principal officers, publications, and affiliation with international labor organizations.

Copies may be obtained free from the Department as long as very limited supply lasts.

FACTORY WEEKLY EARNINGS, GROSS AND NET SPENDABLE*
COMPARED WITH REAL NET SPENDABLE EARNINGS
EXPRESSED IN 1947-49 DOLLARS



AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 1956: PRELIMINARY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

*Earnings after deduction of Federal Income and Social Security taxes

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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FACTS AND SERVICES

November 9, 1956

From The U. S. Department of Labor

Current Publications Available

AUTOMATIC TECHNOLOGY AND ITS IMPLICATIONS: A Selected Annotated Bibliography. This new bibliography (BLS Bulletin 1198) provides 349 annotated references to publications culled from the growing literature on automatic technology in American business and industry. (78 pp. October 1956. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Bulletin No. 1198. Available from the Superintendent of Documents U. S. Government Printing Office at 45 cents each.)

MAN-HOURS PER UNIT OF OUTPUT IN THE BASIC STEEL INDUSTRY, 1939-55. This new bulletin presents productivity trends in the basic steel industry (blast furnaces, steel works and rolling mills, and electro-metallurgical products). A comprehensive study of long-term trends in the industry, it also has sections on: factors affecting productivity change; total employment and production-worker employment; and concepts and limitations. A technical note on sources of the data and methods used is also included. (40 pp. September 1956. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Bulletin No. 1200. Available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office at 30 cents each.)

FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

November 23, 1956

LABOR AND THE ECONOMY

➔ A rise in new construction in 1957 is seen in the annual joint estimate of the Labor and Commerce Departments. An increase of about 5 percent in dollar volume is forecast. (See chart, p.3)

Total expenditures are expected to reach a record of \$46.4 billion in 1957, and physical volume may return to the record set in 1955. For 1956, expenditures are at an annual rate of \$44.1 billion with physical volume running about 2 percent below that of last year.

Public construction, the joint estimate shows, will account for two-thirds of next year's dollar rise. Highway construction may go up some 8 percent. Even larger gains are seen in school building and water and sewer facilities. Outlays for public housing will show the first significant increase since 1951, mostly because of the new Federal program of military housing.

Private construction expenditures are expected to rise by only about 2 percent, with a further drop in housing activity virtually offsetting gains elsewhere. Private homebuilding may drop to about a million non-farm units. The 1956 rate so far is 1.1 million; in 1955, it was 1.3 million.

Housing starts in October remained unchanged from the September level of 93,000 units. Usually, they drop somewhat at this time of year.

➔ Job openings for which out-of-area workers were being sought by the State employment agencies reached a 40-month high in October. Employers' orders for 39,866 workers could not be filled locally. This was an increase of 5,970 over September and 16,292 over a year ago.

The following vacancies were reported in October: Professional and Managerial, 14,605; Clerical and Sales, 3,984; Service, 2,087; Skilled, 12,296; Semiskilled, 4,122; and Unskilled, 2,772. Engineers continued in great demand.

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FACTS AND SERVICES

from the U. S. Department of Labor

November 23, 1956

LATEST FACTS ON JOBS AND WAGES				
	OCTOBER	SEPTEMBER	YEAR AGO	5 YEARS AGO 1951
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT (MILLIONS)	66.2	66.1	65.2	61.8
WEEKLY EARNINGS, MANUFACTURING	82.01	81.40	78.50	65.21
NET SPENDABLE EARNINGS (WORKER WITH 3 DEPENDENTS) ¹	74.87	74.37	72.03	61.72
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1947-49 = 100)	---	117.1	114.9	112.1

¹ NET SPENDABLE EARNINGS ARE OBTAINED BY DEDUCTING APPLICABLE SOCIAL SECURITY AND FEDERAL INCOME TAXES FROM THE AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING.

Program Notes

NEW POLICY PERMITS LONGER HOLIDAY WEEK ENDS

The Labor Department has announced a special overtime pay policy to facilitate longer holiday week ends for workers under the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Public Contracts Act.

The policy, adopted at the request of employers and employees, will permit an additional day off immediately before or after a holiday in exchange for a sixth workday in the preceding or following week, and may be applied to any or all employees of a firm. The sixth day can then be paid for at regular rather than premium rates.

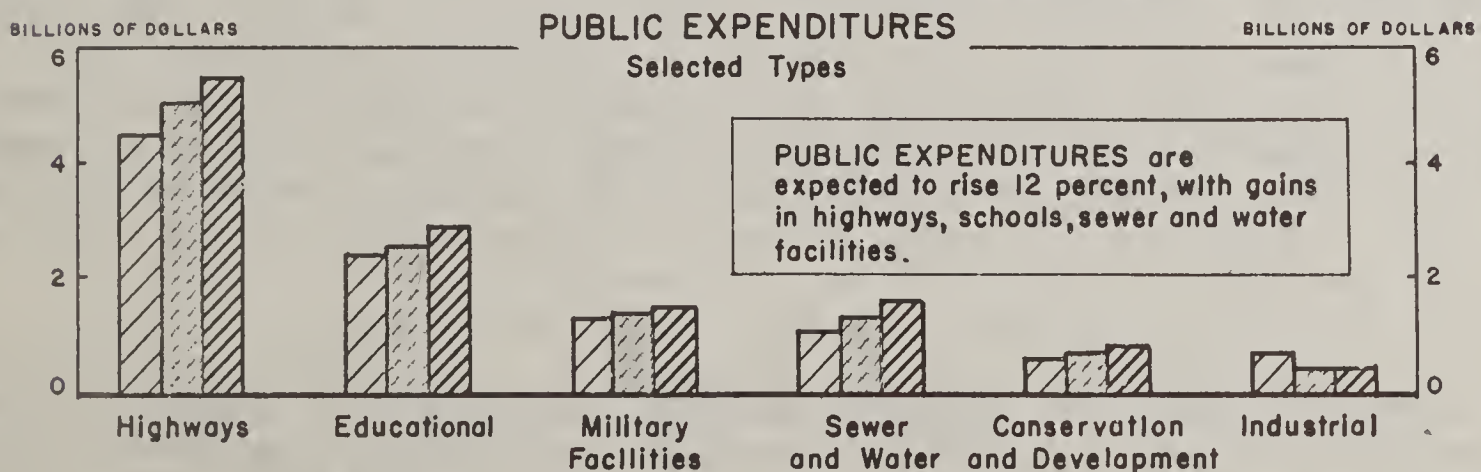
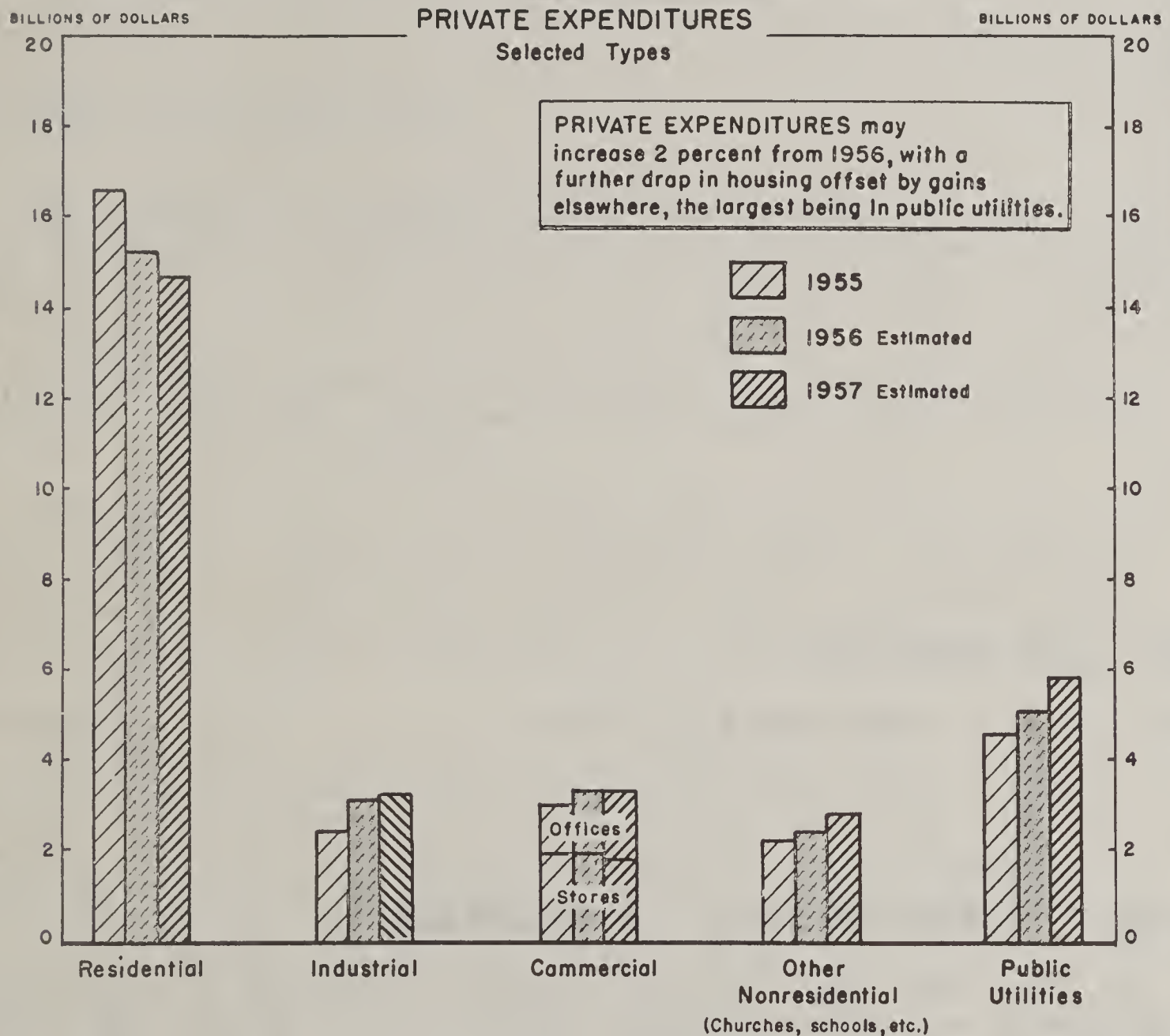
The Labor Department will not question compliance with overtime pay provisions if the firm has a standard practice of paying overtime in accordance with the requirements of the law and if the arrangement is agreed to by employers and employees in advance.

LABOR UNDER SECRETARY ASKS BETTER INCOME INSURANCE

Arthur Larson, leaving his post as Under Secretary of Labor to head the United States Information Agency, urged a speed-up in efforts to improve income insurance. Mr. Larson will succeed Theodore C. Streibert as USIA Director, President Eisenhower announced on November 10.

In an address at Cornell University, the Under Secretary called for progress in income insurance "far beyond anything seen in the last two decades, if the objective is even to be approached." The objective is a "complete, adequate, and coordinated system of income insurances covering all the major exigencies, occupational or nonoccupational, that stop wages—death, disability, unemployment, and age—for all persons for whom such coverage is administratively feasible" while "respecting in the fullest possible degree our American traditions of Federal-State balance of power, reliance on private enterprise, and concern for the pride and individuality of the sovereign separate person."

CONSTRUCTION EXPENDITURES are expected to rise about 5 percent in 1957, with about half of the increase due to prices.



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FACTS AND SERVICES

From The U. S. Department of Labor

November 23, 1956

Current Publications Available

WHY CHILD LABOR LAWS? Bulletin discusses the meaning of child labor today, why regulation of employment of boys and girls is needed, and the early beginnings of child-labor laws. It outlines briefly the provisions and administration of present Federal and State child-labor laws, as well as standards recommended for child-labor legislation, suggesting reasons why these standards are desirable. It discusses extent of the employment of boys and girls currently working within the framework of child-labor laws, and the trend toward increasing part-time employment of in-school youth. (U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards Bulletin No. 185. 22 pages. October 1956. Available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. at 15 cents each.)

APPRENTICE TRAINING. Booklet explains in nontechnical language the national apprenticeship program, its aims and organization, and how it operates. It is intended to provide answers to most of the inquiries received by the Labor Department about apprenticeship. (U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship. 32 pages. October 1956. Single copies free from the Department while supply lasts.)

FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

December 7, 1956

LABOR AND THE ECONOMY

➔ The labor market was tightening in most of the Nation's 149 major areas this autumn, according to the bi-monthly survey of the Labor Department. Eleven major areas were reclassified in the November survey to indicate an improved employment situation.

Marked labor shortages were reported in two areas—Hartford and Stamford-Norwalk, Conn. This was the first time in almost 3 years that any area had been so classified.

Unemployment dropped in 6 areas because of the pickup in the automobile industry. These were Flint and Lansing, Mich., South Bend and Evansville, Ind., Kenosha, Wis., and Dayton, Ohio. Unemployment also dropped in Racine, Wis., because of recalls to farm machinery plants. Detroit reported drops in unemployment, but remained in the sizeable labor surplus category.

Lawrence, Mass., for many years a problem area, moved from the category with 12 percent or more unemployment to the group with 6 to 9 percent. Improvement was due chiefly to gains in the electronics industry. The last major continental area with such unemployment—Wilkes-Barre-Hazleton, Pa.,—also was reclassified because of gains in textiles and coal mining. The two areas which still have 12 percent or more unemployment are both in Puerto Rico.

➔ Business activity continues to expand. Forecasts indicate a further uptrend for most of 1957.

Farmers' net income will rise slightly in 1957, the Agriculture Department's annual outlook statement predicted. The rise in 1957 would be due to strong demand, soil bank payments, and some price firming.

Automobile production is rising steadily, reaching the best levels since last February. It is still some 25 percent below the near record mark of a year ago. Dealer inventories of new 1956 automobiles dropped to less than 100,000 by the end of October.

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Wage increases are specified in 1957 for about 5 million workers on the basis of contracts now in effect, according to Labor Department estimates. The estimates are based on more than 550 major collective-bargaining settlements with wage boost provisions. (Confidential until release.)

Nearly half of these workers will get increases averaging from 6 to less than 8 cents hourly; another 30 percent will get between 8 and 11 cents.

Workers affected are in every major industry group except tobacco and petroleum. Most are in the metalworking and transportation industries. Substantial numbers work in food, paper, printing, chemicals, trade, and public utilities.

Cost-of-living escalator provisions cover many of these workers—altogether, about 3½ million workers employed under collective-bargaining agreements and 300,000 unorganized workers.

Many auto workers have received almost as much in cost-of-living adjustments this year as in deferred wage increases—6 cents under the adjustments and between 6 and 7 cents in deferred wage hikes.

Program Notes

STATE ACTION URGED ON WORKER WELFARE LAWS

Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell recently urged the States to give more attention to improving worker welfare laws.

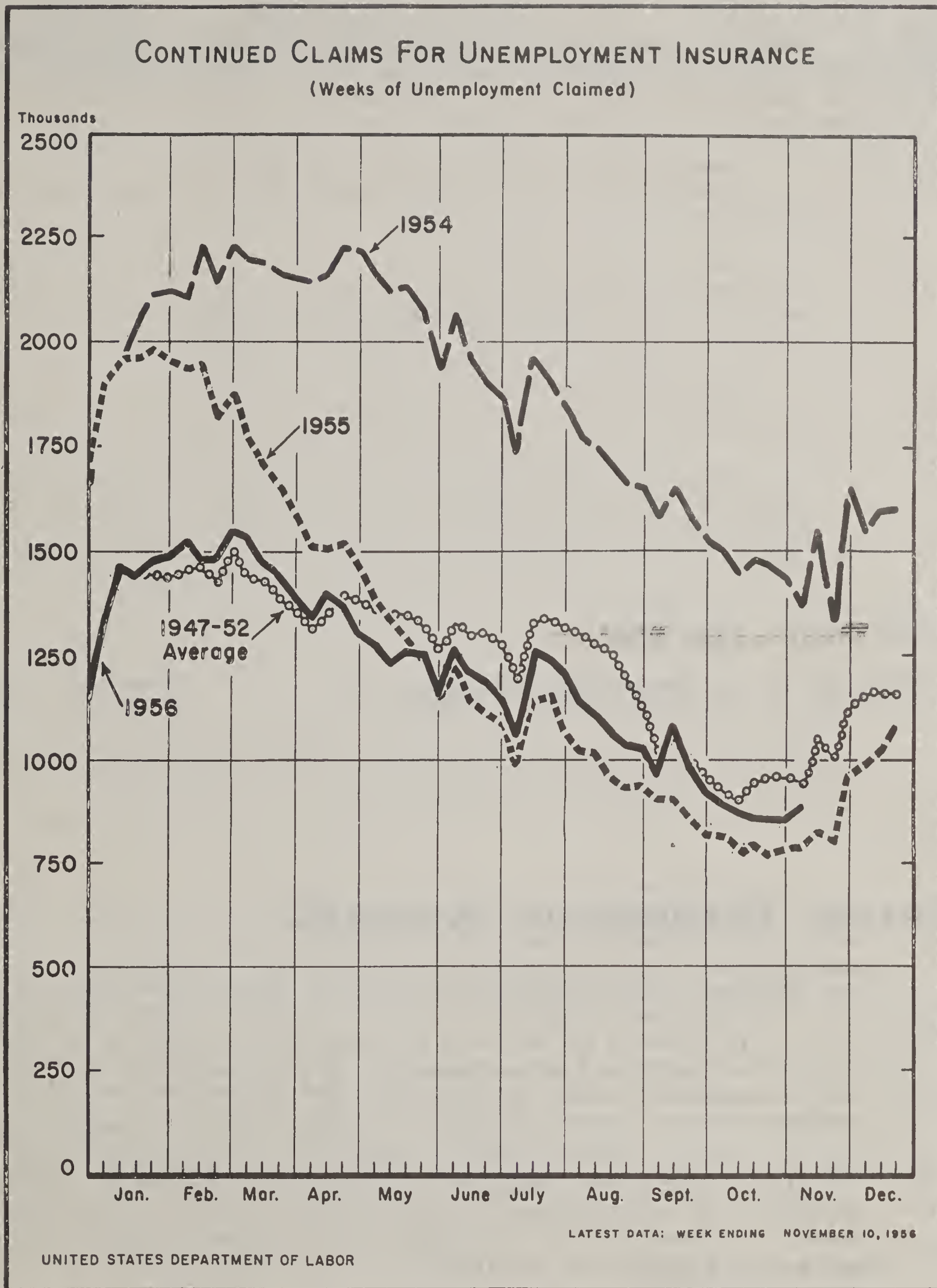
In an address before the International Association of Governmental Labor Officials meeting in Miami Beach., Fla., the Secretary declared that while 43 States raised their workmen's compensation benefits last year, "I think it is not overstating to say that nearly all of our workmen's compensation acts are out of date."

Only 5 States have raised their maximum unemployment compensation benefits to represent half the average worker's wages, the Secretary added. Only 6 States provide as much as 26 weeks' duration for all claimants. In 3 States the basic

maximum benefit is lower than 33 percent of the average weekly wage.

Mr. Mitchell stated: "I don't think there is any question that the responsibility of the Federal Government will tend to increase to the extent that the States neglect their responsibility."

Noting that the President has urged raising jobless benefits to one-half the average worker's wage, and for payments to extend a maximum 26 weeks, Mr. Mitchell continued, "The benefit that once represented half a man's normal salary now represents a third or less. Average weekly benefits, pulled along by sky-rocketing wages, have climbed from \$10.66 to \$26.33. But as a housewife put it in a letter to the Department of Labor: 'You can't keep a family on \$26 a week!'"



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FACTS AND SERVICES

From The U. S. Department of Labor

December 7, 1956

Current Publications Available

SAFETY SUBJECTS: Revised bulletin has been enlarged by the addition of 5 new subjects to constitute a more adequate text for a 150-hour course of organized safety instruction. It is designed for use as a teaching text, as well as in plant libraries and in the day-to-day work of safety engineers, safety committees, and others having specific safety responsibilities. It discusses the annual toll of industrial accidents, development of the industrial safety movement, workmen's compensation legislation, the States' part in safety, accident causes, and other topics related to industrial safety. It goes into considerable detail in discussions of accident prevention in the plant. (U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards Bulletin No. 67, revised. 280 pages. 1956. Available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office at \$1 each.)

FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

December 28, 1956

YEAR END OUTLOOK STATEMENT By Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell

We are ending the year with employment and purchasing power—which I believe are among the most important factors in the economy—at all-time highs. They have made healthy gains. The employment increases have been for the production of consumer goods and services and for the expansion of our industrial capacity, in both cases to meet the demands of a rising population and a rising level of living.

I look forward to a continuation of these gains next year. Employment should rise further, notably in the services and trade, which are becoming increasingly important employers of American Labor. Many workers also will receive wage increases—some 5 million currently have agreements which provide for 5 to 11 cents an hour more in 1957.

The recent price increases, following upon an extraordinarily long period of relative stability, will of course bear careful watching. However, it is likely that the increasing capacity of our industry will remove some of the supply difficulties which helped push prices up recently.

In labor-management relations, 1957 ought to be a comparatively peaceful year, since a remarkably large number of major contracts were negotiated in 1956 for periods of 2 or 3 years. In addition, I am convinced that each year both labor and industry are showing more maturity in their collective bargaining and a greater awareness of their common responsibilities and interests.

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LATEST FACTS ON JOBS AND WAGES				
	NOVEMBER	OCTOBER	YEAR AGO	5 YEARS AGO 1951
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT (MILLIONS)	65.3	66.2	64.8	61.3
WEEKLY EARNINGS, MANUFACTURING	82.42	82.21	79.52	65.61
NET SPENDABLE EARNINGS (WORKER WITH 3 DEPENDENTS) ¹	75.20	75.03	72.85	61.77
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1947-49 = 100)	...	117.7	115.0	112.8

¹ NET SPENDABLE EARNINGS ARE OBTAINED BY DEDUCTING APPLICABLE SOCIAL SECURITY AND FEDERAL INCOME TAXES FROM THE AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING.

WORKERS IDLED BY STOPPAGES DECLINE IN 1956

Work stoppages beginning in 1956 idled fewer workers than in any year in the past decade with the exception of 1954, according to preliminary estimates of the U. S. Labor Department.

The number of strikes beginning in 1956 and the total man-days of idleness resulting from all work stoppages in effect during the year also were below those of a majority of the post-war years. About half of all 1956 idleness was accounted for by the nationwide steel strike in July and the continuation of the Westinghouse stoppage that had begun in 1955.

An estimated 3,800 stoppages began in 1956 compared with 4,320 in 1955. These involved approximately 1,900,000 workers as against 2,650,000 workers in 1955. Idleness resulting from all strikes in effect in 1956 was estimated at 33.0 million man-days; the corresponding total in 1955 was 28.2 million man-days.

Twelve stoppages, each directly idling at least 10,000 workers, began during the year. Most lasted less than a month, but four continued for longer periods. In addition to the steel stoppage, which began July 1 and continued into early August, these strikes included the 112-day Republic Aviation strike on Long Island, the 98-day strike at U. S. Steel's Tennessee Coal and Iron Division in Alabama, and the 71-day construction strike in the New Orleans area.

Disputes over wages and related issues were a major cause of 9 of the year's 12 large strikes. The construction and the primary metals industries (steel and aluminum) each experienced 3 major stoppages. One of 10,000 or more was recorded in aircraft, meatpacking, glass container manufacturing, farm equipment, tire manufacturing, and longshoring.

LABOR DEPARTMENT HELPS HUNGARIANS

ES Representatives Prepare Job Applications

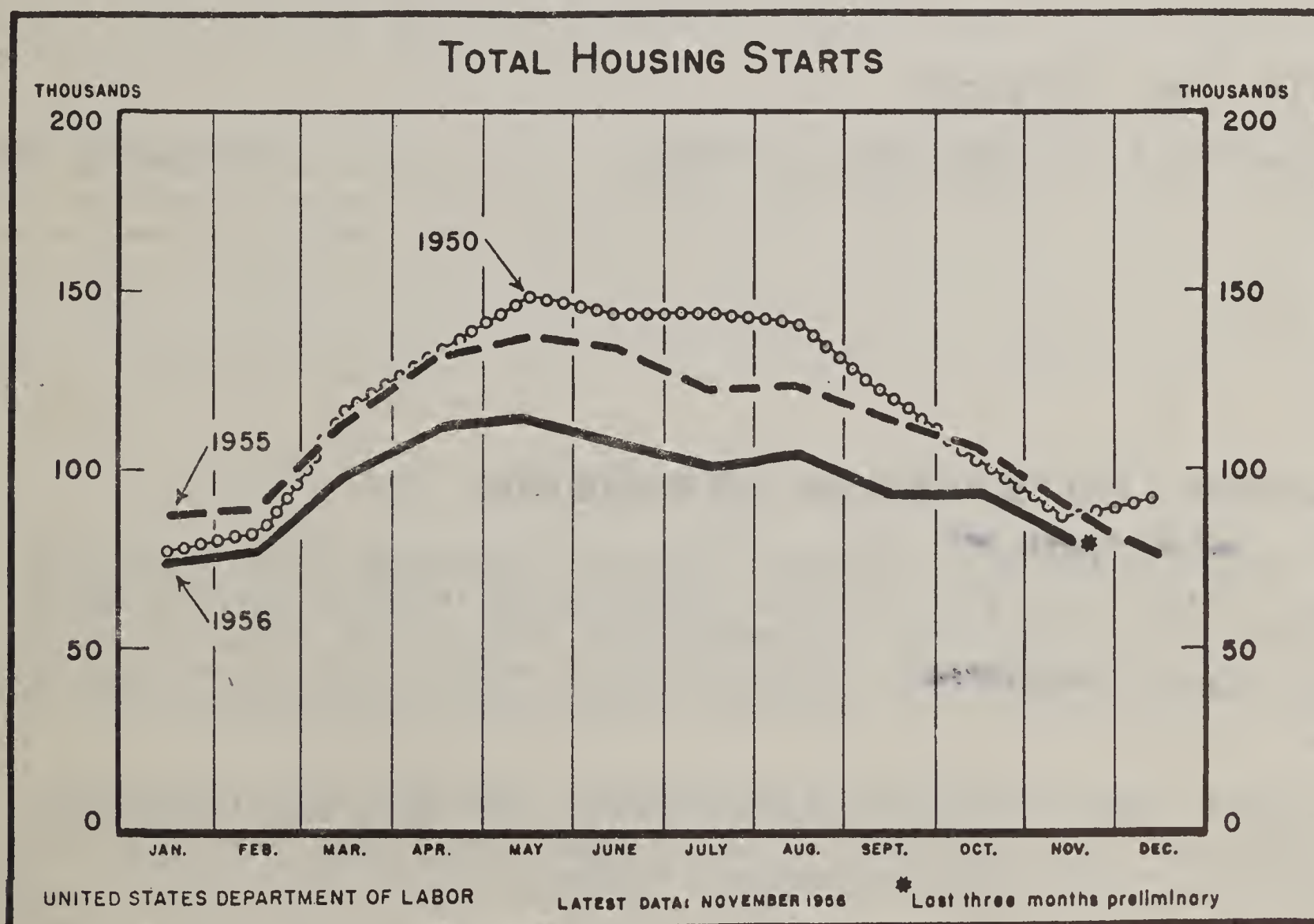
Teams of trained employment service interviewers are aboard Navy transports which are bringing 6,000 Hungarian refugees from Bremerhaven, Germany, to the United States.

The teams are preparing work applications for the refugees while the transports are at sea. Rosters of their occupational skills are being compiled at sea in order to expedite placing of refugees in jobs in the United States. Teams are composed of a Labor Department employment service supervisor and four trained local public employment service interviewers. All are experienced in handling work applications and all speak the Hungarian language.

The rosters of occupational skills prepared at sea are turned over to Labor Department representatives at Camp Kilmer. There, a special U. S. Employment Service office has been established by the Labor Department to give refugees further assistance with work applications and on job placement. Reports from Camp Kilmer show that the occupational skill levels of the Hungarian refugees are excellent. Many have professional and skilled training in occupations now in short supply in this country.

HOUSING STARTS DECLINE

Housing starts declined at about the usual seasonal rate in November. At 80,000, the total was 9,000 below that of November last year, and a little lower than in any November since 1951. For the year so far the total is 1,055,000. This is about 200,000 less than in the same period last year, about 75,000 less than in 1954, but nearly the same as in 1951, 1952, and 1953.



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FACTS AND SERVICES

From The U. S. Department of Labor

December 28, 1956

Current Publications Available

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION PROBLEMS. Covers the proceedings of the forty-first annual convention of the International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions, Chicago, Ill., September 25-29, 1955. (230pp. 1956. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards Bulletin No. 186. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. at 75 cents each.)

CURRENT PUBLICATIONS OF THE WOMEN'S BUREAU. Lists publications by general classification. (6pp. Revised 1956. U. S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau, Leaflet No. 10. Free from the Department of Labor.)

FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

January 25, 1957

A LETTER TO READERS

From Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell

Radical changes due to take place in our population and labor force during the next 10 years present serious problems which must be faced by industry, Government, and our educational institutions. These changes are depicted in a new publication of the Department of Labor "Our Manpower Future—1955-65." A copy is enclosed.

This publication contains a series of 14 charts showing population and labor force trends during the next 10 years as well as the impact of these trends upon the school system.

While our population growth during the next 10 years will provide a labor force that is numerically adequate to meet future labor requirements in our expanding economy, this Nation must make a substantially greater effort to improve the skills and abilities of the labor force so that it will be capable of meeting the skill requirements of the future. Technological developments alone will necessitate significant realignments in occupations in the labor force, and will create an ever-increasing demand for workers with a high degree of education, skill, and creativity.

The chartbook shows that by 1965 there will be approximately 79 million people in our labor force, 10 million more than in 1955 (Chart XI). This 10 million increase will be made up of workers under 25 years of age, new and generally inexperienced, and workers over 45 years of age (Charts XII and XIII). By 1965, there will actually be a decrease of about 3/4 million in the number of men in the working age group of 24-34, in contrast to the previous 10 years, during which there was a substantial increase in this group.

This means that industry will have to revise its present personnel policies which today keep many workers over 45 from making full use of their abilities. Our country can no longer afford this prejudice, or any other, which prevents a segment of the labor force from realizing its fullest potential.

Chart XIII shows that half of the 10 million increase in the labor force will be women, meaning that in the next 10 years industry will be calling on the services of more women in a greater variety of occupations than at present.

In view of the increased need for many more professional, technical, and skilled workers by 1965 (Chart XIV), industry will need to train many more workers on the job if these new skill requirements are to be met. This means expansion in apprenticeship and other forms of job training. Industry must also make sure that the men they have are effectively used. In addition, our schools and colleges will be faced with an ever-increasing task of preparing additional millions of young workers for the new jobs which lie ahead.

Charts IV, V, and VI show the implications of population changes during the next 10 years for our school system. High-school enrollments, for example, which rose only 20 percent in the decade 1945-55, will increase 60 percent between 1955 and 1965. College enrollments are expected to increase 75 percent over the next 10 years.

Adding all these facts together, it becomes clear that if we are to increase our standard of living, maintain our national defense, and generally meet the needs of our expanding economy, there must be quick action taken: to enlarge and improve our school system so that our young people will have the basic education upon which skills can be built; to improve the training programs of industry and labor so as to ensure an adequate, skilled, and versatile work force; to eliminate all forms of discrimination, whether on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, or place of national origin, so as to give the fullest possible opportunity to every worker to develop his capabilities.

LATEST FACTS ON JOBS AND WAGES				
	DECEMBER	NOVEMBER	YEAR AGO	5 YEARS AGO 1951
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT (MILLIONS)	64.6	65.3	64.2	61.0
WEEKLY EARNINGS, MANUFACTURING	84.05	82.42	79.71	67.16
NET SPENDABLE EARNINGS (WORKER WITH 3 DEPENDENTS) ¹	76.54	75.20	73.00	62.98
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1947-49 = 100)	...	117.8	114.7	113.1

¹ NET SPENDABLE EARNINGS ARE OBTAINED BY DEDUCTING APPLICABLE SOCIAL SECURITY AND FEDERAL INCOME TAXES FROM THE AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING.

AREA JOB SURVEYS

A moderate seasonal increase in unemployment from November to January generally was indicated in the Labor Department's bi-monthly survey of 149 major labor market areas. Increases stemmed mainly from curtailed construction and other outdoor activities.

Hiring plans of employers point to modest employment gains. Employers' plans to mid-March indicate that gains will be slight, partly seasonal. No gains are seen in autos, but stability is forecast. Little change is indicated in textiles, and some gains are seen in construction, aircraft, apparel, chemicals, and machinery.

Year-to-year payroll totals showed 1956 employment above that of 1955 in almost three-fourths of the 149 areas in the survey. Unemployment did not change appreciably over the year despite the increased number of workers in the labor market absorbed by new jobs. Many areas reported 1956 employment at peak levels.

Improved employment conditions moved Detroit, Mich., and Knoxville, Tenn., from classification in Group D (substantial labor surplus) to Group C (slight labor surplus). One, Fall River, Mass., moved from C to D. Nine areas were reclassified from B (jobs slightly in excess of job seekers) to C. These are: Sacramento, Calif., Kalamazoo, Mich., Waterbury, Conn., Omaha, Nebr., Oklahoma City, Okla., Wilmington, Del., Portland, Me., Salt Lake City, Utah, and Worcester, Mass.

For the first time in 3 years, there was no change between November and January in the number of smaller areas classified as having relatively substantial labor surplus.

THE LABOR FORCE

The labor force in 1956 as a whole averaged 70.4 million workers—1.5 million more than in 1955. Gains were sharpest in the early part of the year.

A major factor in the unusually large increase in the labor force over the year was the substantial number of older married women who were taking jobs. The number of married women in the labor force averaged 10.8 million in 1955, 11.5 million in 1956.

EMPLOYMENT

Total employment dropped seasonally by about 700,000 in December to 64.6 million, but remained at a record for the month.

UNEMPLOYMENT

For 1956 as a whole, unemployment was slightly lower than in 1955, declining from an average of 2,650,000 to 2,550,000. Long-term unemployment (15 weeks and over) dropped from an average of 700,000 in 1955 to 550,000 in 1956.

HOUSING

Housing starts totaled 1,120,000 in 1956—the 8th consecutive year in which housing starts passed the million mark.

The 1956 total was down 16 percent from 1955 and 8 percent from 1954, but was about the same as the annual totals in the 1951-53 period. When allowance is made for population growth, however, the 1956 rate of homebuilding was the lowest since early postwar years.

Almost all the decrease from 1955 occurred in metropolitan areas and in units started under FHA and VA programs.

LABOR SECRETARY TESTIFIES IN LABOR PROBE

Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell told the Investigations Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Government Operations that while "the great bulk of American trade unions are reputable organizations . . . devoted to the welfare of their members, unquestionably there have been racketeers and hoodlums . . . who have latched onto the labor movement for their own personal gain."

Appearing before the Committee in executive session on January 16, Secretary Mitchell said: "I am sure that the legitimate labor organizations would welcome any assistance that Government can give them in getting rid of these barnacles."

"I think that such an investigation as this Committee is conducting is healthy and will be constructive if it recognizes, as I am sure it does, the fact that it is directing its attention at the racketeering hoodlum, who has become a part of the labor movement against the desire and wishes of most of the trade-union leaders."

Secretary Mitchell said that under the Taft-Hartley Act the Department of Labor is the custodian of financial and organizational reports of some 39,000 unions. These reports include among other things the names, titles, and compensation and allowances of the union's three principal officers and any of its officers whose compensation and allowances exceed \$5,000 a year, as well as a financial statement of income and disbursement of the union itself.

In response to questioning, Secretary Mitchell pointed out that the statements made in these reports may in some cases be "in fact false and fraudulent, but in accordance with the statute as it is now written the Government has no means of determining that it is false or fraudulent so that it is possible . . . that a false and fraudulent financial statement might be filed and a union might be in compliance with the present law."

He said that from time to time when he had reason to doubt a particular union's statement he had referred it to the Justice Department for attention, but said that at this time this is all the law allows.

"The only authority," the Secretary explained, "we have to challenge the financial statement as the law now reads is if the union has failed to answer any of the questions that may be on the form. We have no authority to challenge the accuracy or validity of that information."

Secretary Mitchell emphasized: "I would judge that the great majority of the financial reports we get are factual presentations."

FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

February 8, 1957

JAMES T. O'CONNELL BECOMES UNDER SECRETARY OF LABOR

Mr. James T. O'Connell, of Upper Montclair, N. J., was sworn in as Under Secretary of Labor by Associate Justice of the Supreme Court William J. Brennan on February 2.

Mr. O'Connell succeeds Arthur Larson, who resigned to head the U. S. Information Agency.

Jacob S. Potofsky, President of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, said of Mr. O'Connell's appointment:

"The Administration has made a splendid choice in the appointment of James O'Connell. He is ideally suited for his post in the Labor Department.

"I have known Mr. O'Connell for 10 years in his capacity as Vice President in charge of Industrial Relations of the Publix Shirt Corporation. During that period we were impressed by his fairness and his devotion to the concept of enlightened labor-management relations.

"Mr. O'Connell always dealt fairly with our union, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, with whom his firm is in contractual relations. Our agreements were strictly observed and we found him to be a man of character and integrity.

"The new appointee will be a worthy addition to the U. S. Department of Labor. I congratulate the Administration upon its choice."

The new Under Secretary was born in New York City on May 27, 1906. He has received three degrees from Columbia University—a B.A. in 1928, B.S. in 1929, and a degree in civil engineering in 1930.

During World War II, Mr. O'Connell was with the U. S. Army, serving both here and overseas, with responsibility for management and labor relations affecting almost a million civilian Army employees.



JAMES T. O'CONNELL, of Upper Montclair, N. J., is sworn in as Under Secretary of Labor by Justice William J. Brennan. Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell, left, watches the ceremony.

NONFARM JOBS, EARNINGS

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT and factory worker EARNINGS set new records in 1956. Nonfarm employment averaged 51.5 million, 1.5 million above the previous high in 1955. Average hourly earnings of factory workers reached \$2 during the latter part of the year.

Nonmanufacturing industries accounted for 1.2 million of the employment increase. This was a gain of 3.6 percent over 1955, with every major nonmanufacturing group reporting an increase.

Manufacturing employment rose 330,000 to 16.9 million in 1956. Large gains in a few industries were offset by losses or only modest gains in others. An increase of more than 6 percent occurred in the number of nonproduction workers, (partly reflecting sharp increases in research and development) while production workers increased by less than 1 percent.

Production worker payrolls were up more than 5 percent in 1956, and average weekly hours dropped 0.2 to 40.5. Hourly earnings averaged \$1.98, 10 cents over 1955, reaching a high of \$2.05 in December.

PRODUCTIVITY

PRODUCTIVITY GAINS in 1956 were relatively small, following 2 years of substantial growth, according to interim estimates of the Labor Department. The following increases in output per man-hour were estimated.

Estimates based on—

1. Hours of production workers in manufacturing: From 1947 to 1953, 3.0 to 3.6 percent; in 1954 and 1955, about 4½ percent; in 1956, 1 to 2½ percent, depending upon production data used.

2. Hours of all factory workers: The above averages are lowered by at least one half a percentage point for 1947 to

1953, and about one percentage point since then.

3. Total man-hours in private nonagricultural employment: From 1947 to 1953, about 3½ percent; in 1954 and 1955, 3 percent; in 1956, practically no change.

It is recognized that productivity does not advance every year in a straight line. Possible factors in the smaller increase in 1956 are the moderate gain in real output, production adjustments to new equipment, the large increase in the labor force, and utilization of marginal resources in some industries.

CONSTRUCTION

Construction activity in January declined about seasonally in nearly all major components. In private residential construction, the downtrend of the past year and a half appeared to be continuing.

The dollar volume of January construction, \$3.0 billion, was a record for the month, about 3 percent above that of 1956. Costs also rose by this amount, so that physical volume was unchanged.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

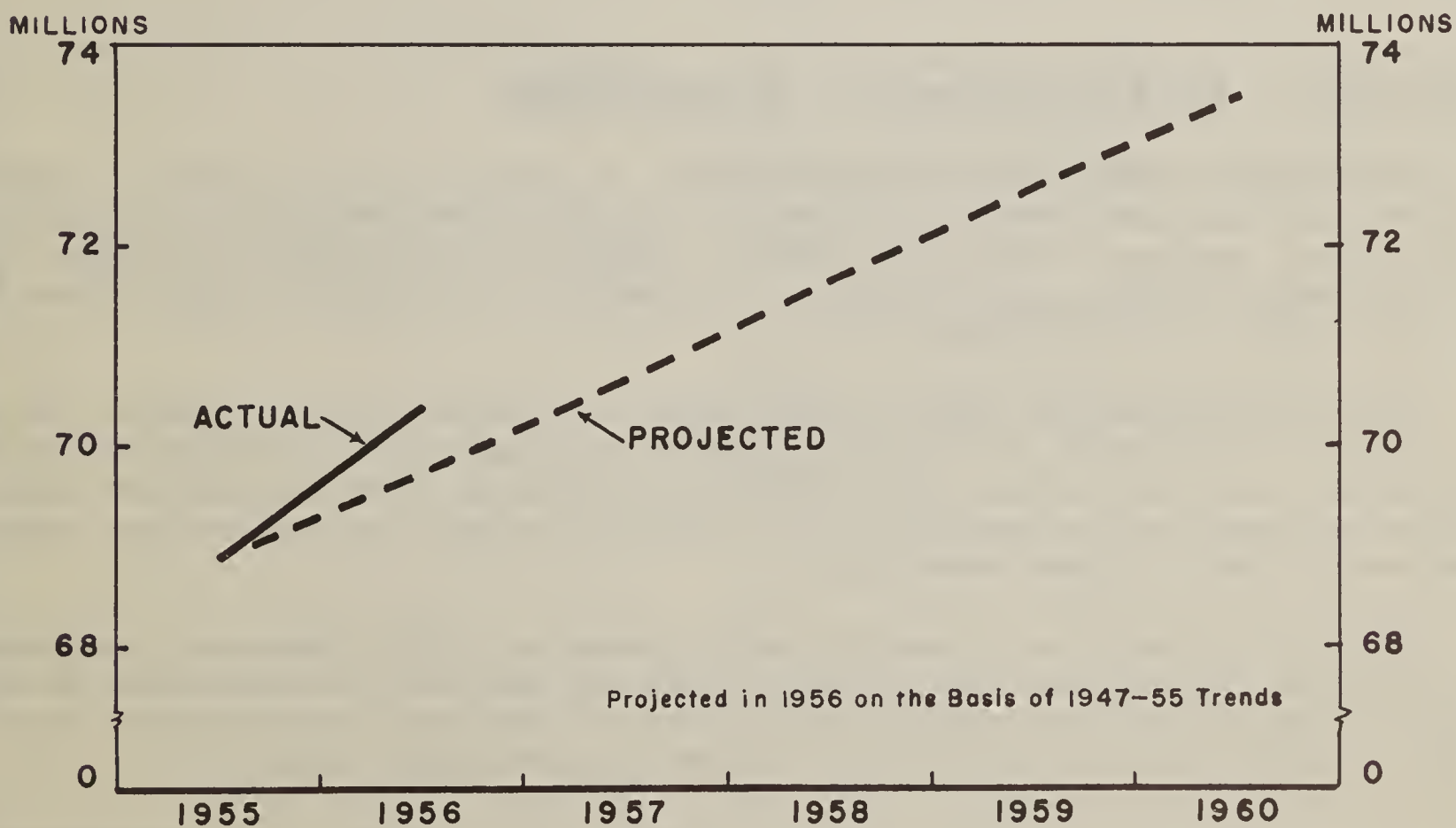
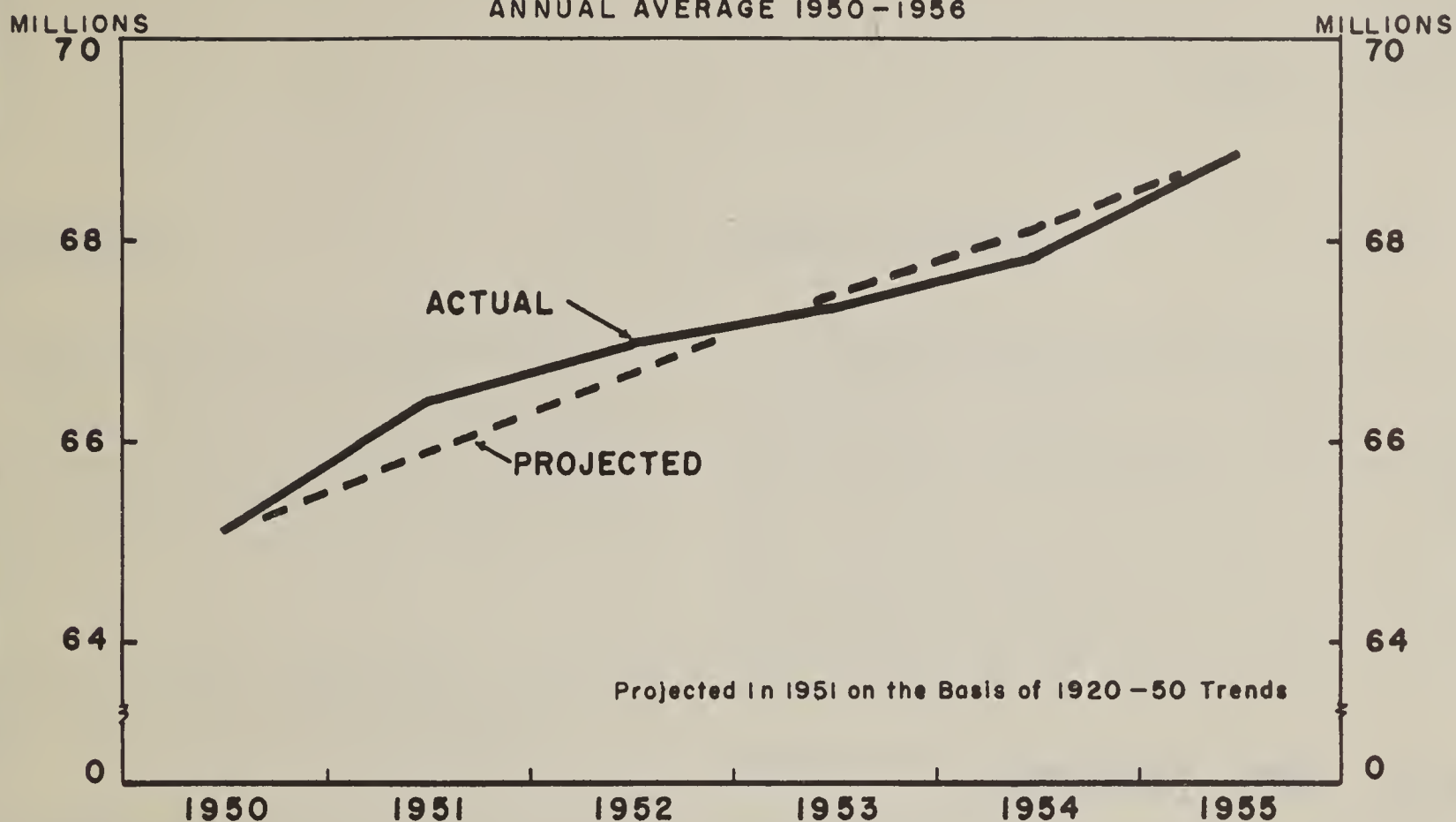
Present economic forces may lead to a moderate rise in gross national product in 1957, according to testimony before the Joint Economic Committee. A rise of 3 to 3½ percent was implied. This would be about the normal amount.

Consumer buying plans indicate a good year, according to a University of Michigan survey, but there is no sign that the consumer will provide any new impetus as in 1954 and 1955 to offset any declines.

Wage increases are scheduled for at least 5 million workers in 1957 on the basis of contracts concluded earlier.

COMPARISON OF ACTUAL AND PROJECTED TOTAL LABOR FORCE

ANNUAL AVERAGE 1950-1956



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OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION FOR COUNSELORS: An Annotated Bibliography. Describes available publications covering information for use of counselors such as general publications, manpower studies and reports, counseling and related techniques, career and employment planning, and background information. Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell states in the foreword:

"The creativeness and skill of our people to a great extent determine the quantity and quality of the goods and services this Nation produces. If the United States is to maintain its position of world leadership, both in economic progress and in defense, we must make a conscious and deliberate effort to develop our manpower resources to their highest potential. . .

"This bibliography of counseling and guidance materials represents one phase of the Department's program to help people select and prepare for occupations in which they may find the greatest personal satisfaction. Only then can they make their greatest contribution to the Nation's economic progress and strength."

(U. S. Department of Labor. 1956. 20 pp. Single copies free from Department while supply lasts. For sale by Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at 15 cents each.)

FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

March 15, 1957

EMPLOYMENT

Total civilian employment rose by 600,000 in February to 63.2 million. Much of the increase was in agriculture and among the self-employed. The February pickup was partly a recovery from the unusually large January drop of 1.7 million.

Agricultural employment rose from 4.9 to 5.2 million, but still was at one of the lowest levels for February.

The factory workweek remained steady at 40.2 hours, with most industries reporting normal seasonal shifts in hours of work. The workweek for manufacturing as a whole was 0.3 of an hour below that of last February.

Earnings of factory production workers continued high with weekly earnings of \$82.41 at a record for February and hourly earnings of \$2.05 at an all-time high.

Average weekly pay in manufacturing in February was \$4.24 higher than a year earlier. Largest over-the-year increases in weekly pay were reported by transportation equipment (\$9.15), ordnance (\$8.68), tobacco (\$5.96), rubber (\$5.62), and electrical machinery (\$5.28). Earnings in durable goods industries were \$5.11 higher than a year ago, while earnings in nondurable goods industries were up by \$3.26.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment changed only slightly, with most of those who became employed in February coming from outside the labor force. Unemployment was estimated at 4.7 percent of the labor force, or 3.1 million. The jobless total included some 250,000 persons on temporary layoff or scheduled to start new jobs who are now counted as unemployed under new Census definitions effective this year.

PRICES, PURCHASING POWER

The uptrend in consumer prices continued into January. Moderate declines in food, apparel, housefurnishings, and new cars were outweighed by advances in most other goods and services. The Consumer Price Index rose to 118.2 (1947-49 = 100), 0.2 percent above December and 3.1 percent above January and February a year ago.

Cost-of-living wage increases, generally of 1 cent an hour, went to 1.3 million workers. Most are in automobile, farm implement, and electrical machinery industries.

Purchasing power of the average factory worker's weekly wage has gone up about 1 percent over the past year, despite the rise in consumer prices. Spendable weekly earnings averaged \$74.99 in January for a worker with 3 dependents. This was 4.1 percent higher than a year ago, while consumer prices advanced 3.1 percent.

INTERIM REPORT ISSUED ON \$1 MINIMUM WAGE

An interim report on a projected 3-year study of the economic effects of the \$1 minimum wage produced some evidence of a small amount of unemployment resulting from the new minimum, but no indication of the overall extent of such loss.

The report considers the short-run effects of the \$1 minimum, based on surveys by the Labor Department in the 2 months following the March 1, 1956 effective date.

Among the preliminary report's conclusions are:

There was evidence of reduction in hours of work to reduce overtime premium pay.

Price increases for some products of low-wage industries appear to be attributable, at least in part, to the minimum-wage increase.

A few employers reported improvements in plant efficiency resulting from higher costs per hour of labor. A small number of employers interviewed said the minimum-wage increase caused them to be more selective in hiring new workers.

In the short run, in industries surveyed, the \$1 minimum apparently resulted in some increases in earnings of workers previously paid \$1 an hour or more. It also resulted in a general narrowing of wage differentials in the industries surveyed, particularly among regions, occupations, and plants of different sizes.

There was some evidence of increases in production quotas. A number of complaints by employees of increased quotas in piece-rate industries were received by the Department of Labor.

Because of the concentration of low-wage industries in the Southern States, the economic effects of the \$1 minimum wage were greatest there. Consequently, general wage levels in the South were raised relatively more than in the rest of the country by the higher minimum wage.

The expectation by some that business failures would increase significantly as a result of the new minimum has not up to this time been confirmed by the available statistics for the South.

The report draws two general conclusions as to effects that the new minimum wage did NOT have. First, the increase had not, by December 1956, resulted in any substantial changes in the national economy as a whole, as measured by trends in employment, unemployment, price levels, and other economic indicators. Second, it had not resulted in an increase in hourly earnings of high-paid employees proportionate to the increase in earnings of workers previously paid less than \$1 an hour.

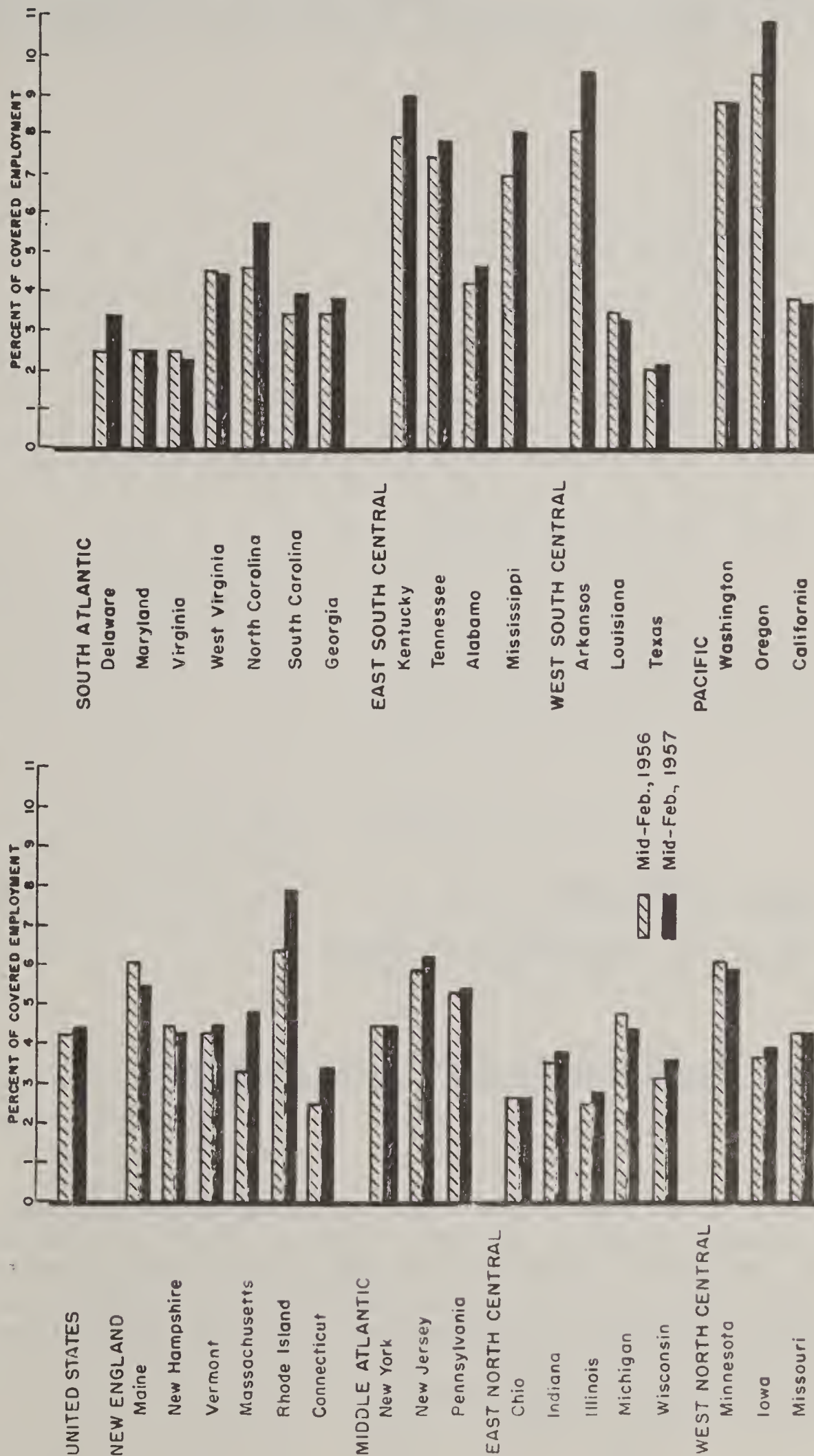
A final report will be issued in June 1958.

MARCH 7, 1957

INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN INDUSTRIAL STATES

Mid-February, 1956 and 1957

Increases in insured unemployment from a year ago have generally been larger in states with important textile, lumbering, and nonferrous metal industries. In the midwest, slackness in appliances has been largely offset by improvement from a year ago in automobiles.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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March 15, 1957

Current Publications Available

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS OF THE BUREAU OF LABOR STANDARDS, 1956. Lists available publications by general category. Those on Safety include general, special hazards, the President's Conference on Occupational Safety, and the Federal Safety Council. Under Labor Legislation and Administration are general, wages and hours, and workmen's compensation. Also lists miscellaneous publications and those on child labor and youth employment. (*U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards. 1957. 30 pp. Single copies free from the U. S. Department of Labor while supply lasts.*)

FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

March 29, 1957

PRICES

The consumer price index rose in February to 118.7 (1947-49=100). This was an increase of 0.4 percent over the month and 3.6 percent over the year.

Food prices rose 0.6 percent in February—contrary to the usual postwar trend for the month.

Housefurnishings costs also went up. Textiles returned to pre January-sale prices, and higher prices appeared on a variety of appliance and furniture items.

Rents remained unchanged over the month.

Transportation costs increased despite small declines in the cost of new and used cars. Increases resulted from higher prices for tires, gas and oil, repairs, insurance, and railroad fares.

THE LABOR MARKET

Employers' hiring plans point to continued employment stability in the next 2 months, the Labor Department's bi-monthly survey of the Nation's 149 major labor market areas indicated. Employers in 90 percent of the areas anticipated seasonal job gains to mid-May.

Employment remained relatively stable from January to March.

Only three areas were reclassified in March because of increased unemployment. They are Albany-Schenectady-Troy,

N. Y., Cincinnati, Ohio, and Lancaster, Pa. Employment in these areas was affected by layoffs in electrical machinery, and cutbacks in textiles and building materials.

Areas with substantial unemployment remained at 19. About half of these are textile or coal-mining areas.

Significant overall labor shortages were shown in two areas—Hartford and Stamford-Norwalk, Conn.

Shortages of certain types of workers were still reported by many areas. Shortages were most pronounced for engineers, draftsmen, machinists, aircraft mechanics, nurses, and well-qualified stenographers.

BUSINESS OUTLAYS

Business expenditures for new plant and equipment in 1957 are planned at \$37½ billion, according to Government estimates. This is over \$2 billion, or 6 percent, greater than the 1956 total.

Increases in capital outlays are expected to be fairly widespread, with public utilities and railroads scheduling the sharpest percentage rise.

Within manufacturing, primary metals, non-electrical machinery, chemicals, and petroleum account for major gains.

Sales are expected to rise over 1956 levels by 8 percent in manufacturing, 4 percent in trade, and 9 percent in utilities. Increased prices are partly responsible.

LATEST FACTS ON JOBS AND WAGES				
	FEBRUARY	JANUARY	YEAR AGO	5 YEARS AGO 1951
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT ² (MILLIONS)	63.2	62.6 ²	62.6	59.8
WEEKLY EARNINGS, MANUFACTURING	82.41	82.21	78.17	66.75
NET SPENDABLE EARNINGS (WORKER WITH 3 DEPENDENTS) ¹	74.99	74.82	71.77	62.66
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1947-49 = 100)	118.7	118.2	114.6	112.4

¹ NET SPENDABLE EARNINGS ARE OBTAINED BY DEDUCTING APPLICABLE SOCIAL SECURITY AND FEDERAL INCOME TAXES FROM THE AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING.

² TOTALS SINCE JANUARY 1957 REFLECT A SLIGHTLY MODIFIED DEFINITION OF EMPLOYMENT WHICH REDUCED THE TOTAL BY ABOUT 250,000 ON THE AVERAGE.

INJURY RATES DOWN

The manufacturing injury rate dropped in the final months of 1956, Labor Department preliminary reports show.

The rate of disabling injuries per million employee hours worked dropped from 12.1 in October to 10.8 in November—a record low for that month. A further drop in December pushed the rate down to 9.9, an all-time low for any month. The average for the quarter, 11.0, was better than the previous fourth quarter record of 11.2 in 1954.

For the year as a whole, the rate, at 11.9, was an improvement over the 12.1 average of 1955, and equaled the all-time low established in 1954.

NEW ENGLAND ECONOMY

New England's economy, once dominated by textiles, is accomodating itself to the ascendance of electronics and aircraft engine manufacture. The change, however, sometimes leaves in its wake serious labor force dislocations and social problems.

This is pointed out in eight articles in a specialized issue of the Monthly

Labor Review on New England labor and labor problems. The articles note the mature and generally conservative practice of labor relations and collective bargaining in the area, and generally indicate "stability and growth in store, in part because of the character and tradition of the New England people."

JOB MOBILITY

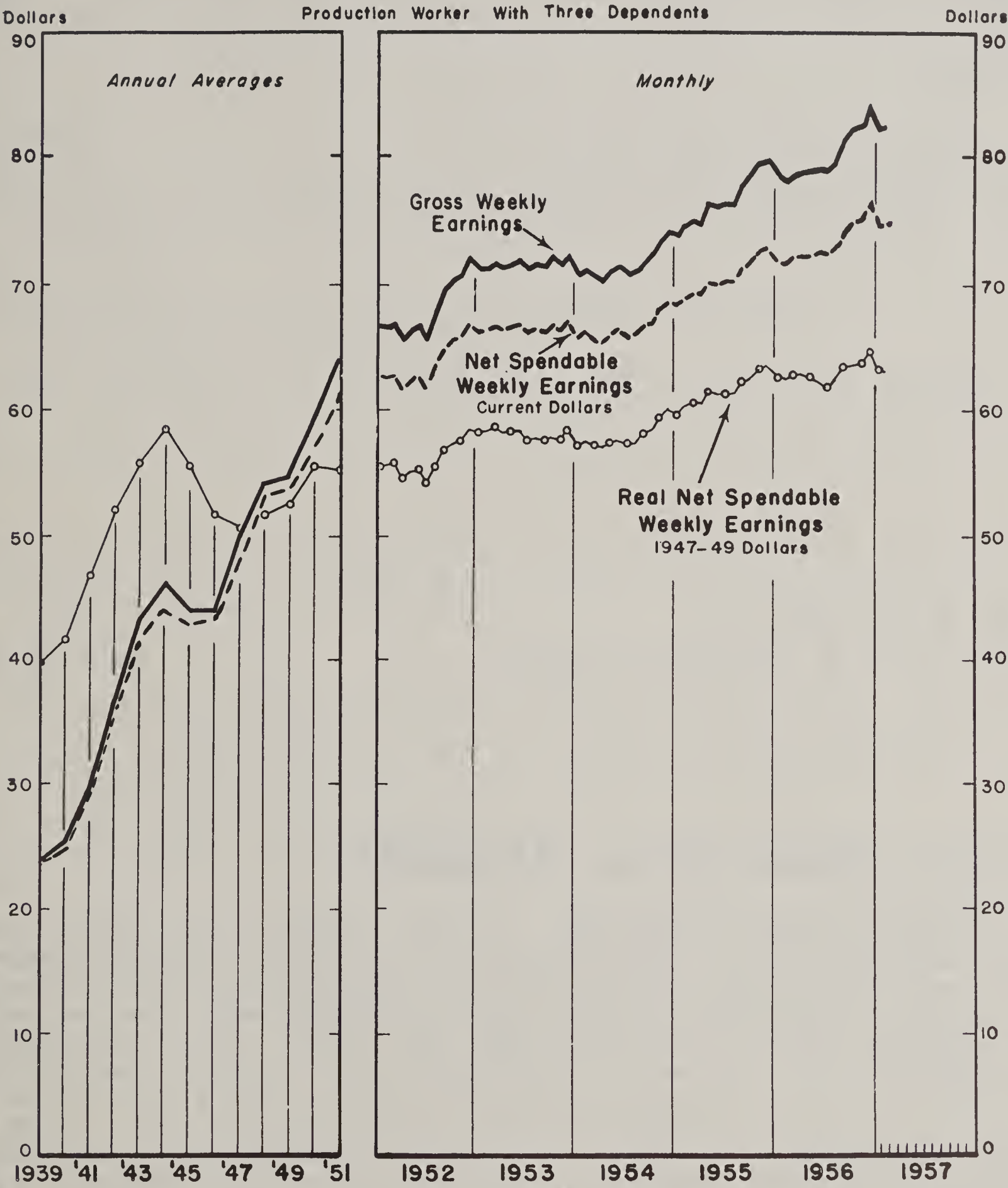
Approximately 11½ million persons had more than one job in 1955, according to a special Census survey.

About 3 million workers held two or more jobs at the same time for at least part of the year; 8½ million shifted jobs at least once during the year.

Overall, about 18 percent of the men and 11 percent of the women had more than one job in 1955. About 30 percent of the men and only 19 percent of the women held two jobs at the same time.

One-fourth of the workers between 18 and 24 years old had more than one job compared with one-seventh of those between 35 and 54. Among wage and salary workers, farm laborers and construction workers comprised 28 percent of the total with more than one job.

FACTORY WEEKLY EARNINGS, GROSS AND NET SPENDABLE*
COMPARED WITH REAL NET SPENDABLE EARNINGS
EXPRESSED IN 1947-49 DOLLARS



LATEST DATA: FEBRUARY 1957

*Earnings after deduction of Federal income and Social Security taxes

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FACTS AND SERVICES

From The U. S. Department of Labor

March 29, 1957

Current Publications Available

JOB HORIZONS FOR THE COLLEGE WOMAN. Pamphlet counsels college women on choosing a career and finding a job. Includes suggestions as to how to prepare a background folder, submit an application, and make the most of an interview. Gives information about careers in some 20 fields, from accounting to writing and editing, and suggests occupational fields which college women might choose. Gives a quick summary of the general picture, such as what percentage of women college graduates are in the labor force, what their occupations are, and how important they are in the national economy. (U. S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau Pamphlet One, 1956. 53 pp. Available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. at 25 cents each. Chapter on 'Job Finding Techniques for the College Woman' also has been published separately and may be purchased at 10 cents a copy.)

FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

April 12, 1957

EMPLOYMENT

Employment in March reached 63.9 million, a record for the month and a 700,000 gain from February.

Gains of the last 2 months have offset most of the unusually large drop in employment which occurred immediately after Christmas. Much of the job increase in March, as in February, was among outdoor workers. There was also a further pickup among domestics and nonfarm self-employed.

Over the month, the largest job increase in nonfarm payrolls was in construction—about 70,000. Other seasonal gains were reported in State and local governments and in service industries.

March marked the third consecutive month in which factory employment declined on a seasonally adjusted basis, dropping by more than 200,000 since December. (The usual seasonal drop is about 100,000.) Over the 3-month period, the biggest drop—45,000—was reported in the lumber industry. Employment in auto factories declined substantially. Smaller, but significant, reductions were reported in primary metals, electrical machinery, fabricated metals, and textiles. Over the year, however, employment in manufacturing was up by more than 130,000.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment fell seasonally by $\frac{1}{4}$ million between February and March to an estimated 2.9 million. State insured unemployment declined by 150,000 to 1.6 million. The unemployment drop was smaller than the employment gain because many of those who found jobs were women and young persons entering the labor force.

With the March decline, the unemployment rate was down to 4.3 percent for all workers and 4.0 percent for insured workers, neither significantly different from a year ago.

FACTORY WORKWEEK

The average factory workweek, at 40.0 hours, was down 0.2 of an hour in March and about 1 hour under December, a sharper than average drop for this time of year.

In the auto industry, the workweek has dropped by more than 5 hours since December, when overtime was at unusually high levels.

Over the year, declines of 1 hour or more were reported by the primary metals and textile industries. Gains of $\frac{1}{2}$ hour or more occurred in instruments and ordnance, and a gain of 1.3 hours was reported in the rubber industry.

The decline in hours worked pushed average weekly earnings of factory production workers down 40 cents to \$82 in March. Hourly earnings remained unchanged between February and March at \$2.05, but were 10 cents above a year ago. Over the year, every industry group reported higher weekly earnings.

THE LIBRARY OF THE

CONSTRUCTION

MAY 9 1957

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

March construction expenditures rose seasonally to an estimated \$3,172 million, a new high for the month. This brought the first quarter total to \$9,157 million, 4 percent over the 1956 previous high. Housing declines were offset by increased activity in other areas.

JOBS SCHEDULED FOR MIGRANT FARM WORKERS

Plan brings steadier employment, higher annual earnings

Most of the agricultural migrants who work along the eastern seaboard this year will follow advance work schedules taking them to a succession of jobs in various States as they move northward from Florida to New York, the Labor Department has announced.

Farm placement representatives from 10 State employment services and the U. S. Labor Department met with crew leaders and heads of migrant families April 1-18 in Florida to help develop advance work schedules for the year. More than 30,000 migrant farm workers are expected to move up the coast from Florida this year.

Developed in recent years, the program is known as the "Annual Worker Plan" for agricultural migrants. It helps migrant farm workers to obtain steadier employment and thus earn higher annual incomes.

WAGES, BENEFITS INCREASED UNDER 1956 CONTRACTS

Wage-rate increases received in 1956 under the terms of major contracts averaged somewhat higher than in 1955, and improvements in supplementary benefits were more widespread. No appraisal of 1957 trends is yet available, as relatively few major contracts have been concluded so far, which is usual for the early part of the year.

Nearly 1,200 major agreements were negotiated in 1956, each affecting 1,000 or more workers (not including agreements in construction, service, finance, and government). These agreements covered 5.7 million workers. All but 1 percent of the workers received increases and about three-fourths of them received increases averaging 10 cents an hour or more during the first contract year. In 1955, about half the workers received increases of this size. Approximately three-fourths of the settlements in 1956 provided for improved fringe benefits — an increase over the two-thirds in 1955.

An additional 1.9 million workers received increases in 1956 which had been contracted for in earlier years. Most of them were in the automobile, farm machinery, and related industries, where the wage rise was 12 cents, including a 6-cent cost-of-living adjustment.

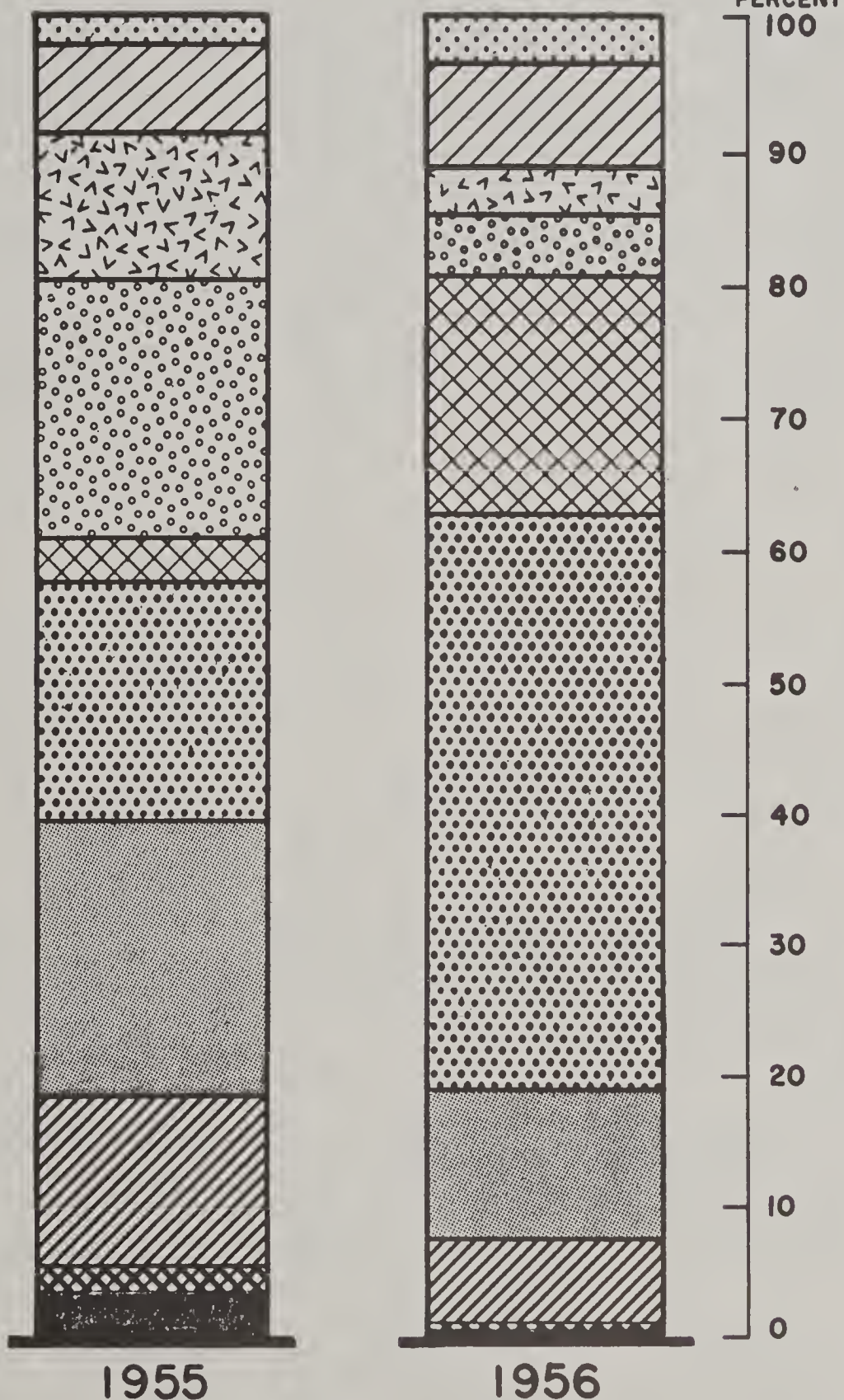
A notable feature of the 1956 bargaining was the widespread adoption of long-term agreements specifying wage-rate changes for a period of 2 or more years. These affected nearly 3 million workers. Many of these agreements incorporated cost-of-living escalator clauses, raising the total of workers covered by this type of provision to about 4 million.

(See chart, facing page.)

MARCH 28, 1957

WAGE CHANGES NEGOTIATED IN 1955 AND 1956, AS A PERCENT OF WORKERS COVERED*

-  Not Specified
-  17 cents and over
-  15 and under 17 cents
-  13 and under 15 cents
-  11 and under 13 cents
-  9 and under 11 cents
-  7 and under 9 cents
-  5 and under 7 cents
-  Under 5 cents
-  No Change in Wages



* COVERS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SETTLEMENTS INVOLVING 1,000 OR MORE WORKERS CONCLUDED DURING THE PERIOD. EXCLUDES SETTLEMENTS IN CONSTRUCTION, SERVICES, FINANCE, AND GOVERNMENT. ALSO EXCLUDES INSTANCES IN WHICH REOPENING PRIVILEGES WERE NOT EXERCISED, CHANGES THAT WENT INTO EFFECT DURING THE PERIOD AS A RESULT OF EARLIER NEGOTIATIONS, AND CHANGES TO GO INTO EFFECT AFTER THE FIRST CONTRACT YEAR. EXCLUDES VALUE OF CHANGES IN SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFITS. THE WAGE INCREASES SHOWN ARE THE AVERAGE FOR ALL WORKERS COVERED BY A SETTLEMENT.

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FACTS AND SERVICES

From The U. S. Department of Labor

April 12, 1957

Current Publications Available

ANNUAL DIGEST OF STATE AND FEDERAL LABOR LEGISLATION. This Bulletin, the twenty-first issue in a series, combines two annual digests. Part I includes major State and Federal labor laws passed from September 1954 through December 1955, and Part II, such legislation passed in 1956 up to October 15.

Introduction notes that much significant labor legislation was enacted by legislatures meeting in 1955; that the greatest activity was in workmen's compensation and unemployment insurance; and that minimum-wage legislation showed more progress than in any year since 1937.

Bulletin deals with States separately, tells what labor legislation was passed, and gives the provisions of the laws. (*U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards, Bulletin No. 188. 1956. 287pp. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. at 70 cents each.*)

FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

April 26, 1957

CPI RISES 0.2 PERCENT

The consumer price index rose 0.2 percent between February and March to 118.9 percent of the 1947-49 average. This was 3.7 percent higher than a year earlier.

Food prices declined 0.4 percent, but advances occurred in the housing index (0.3 percent), apparel (0.7), used cars (3.5), medical care (0.7), personal care (0.2), and reading and recreation (0.5).

SPENDABLE EARNINGS DIP

Factory workers' spendable earnings dipped slightly between February and March because of the shorter workweek.

Average weekly earnings after deduction of Federal taxes dropped by over 30 cents to \$74.65 for a worker with 3 dependents and to \$67.25 for a worker without dependents. Buying power declined, reflecting both the drop in hours and the rise in prices.

Spendable earnings were about \$2.35 a week, or 3½ percent, higher than a year ago, but buying power was slightly lower this year because of the rise in consumer prices.

JOBLESS BENEFITS IMPROVE

Higher weekly benefit payments than ever before are now going to jobless workers with State or Federal unemployment insurance protection. Weekly benefits rose to \$27.85 in February--79 cents over the 1956 average and \$2.77 above the 1955 average.

Forty-two States have increased the basic maximum payable during the last 27 months.

1956 improvements included an increase of \$1.98 in benefits and a rise of 2,300,000 in the number of workers covered. All States now cover firms with four or more and 23 States include firms with fewer than four employees.

The average weekly number of unemployed drawing benefits dropped in 1956 to 1,041,000 from 1,099,000 in 1955, and the average beneficiary in 1956 drew payments for 11.4 weeks, a drop of 1.1 weeks from the previous year.

BUILDING TRADES WAGES UP

Construction workers' union wage scales rose 0.4 percent during the first 3 months of 1957, bringing the average hourly rate to \$3.09.

The increases averaged 1.3 cents hourly for all union workers in the major building trades, including those whose wages were not changed, according to the Labor Department's quarterly survey of 7 major building trades in 100 cities. The increases granted were typically about 10 cents, occurring in about 1 of every 3 adjustments.

Since April 1, 1956, the increases for the trades combined averaged 12.7 cents. For individual trades, it varied from 10.3 to 17.3 cents. On April 1, 1957, the level of rates was 50 percent above the average for the years 1947-49.

LATEST FACTS ON JOBS AND WAGES				
	MARCH	MONTH AGO	YEAR AGO	5 YEARS AGO
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT ¹ (MILLIONS)	63.9	63.2	63.1	59.7
WEEKLY EARNINGS, MANUFACTURING	\$82.00	\$82.41	\$78.78	\$66.99
NET SPENDABLE EARNINGS ² (WORKER WITH 3 DEPENDENTS)	\$74.65	\$74.99	\$72.25	\$62.85
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1947-49 = 100)	118.9	118.7	114.7	112.4

¹ TOTALS SINCE JANUARY 1957 REFLECT A SLIGHTLY MODIFIED DEFINITION OF EMPLOYMENT. TO BE COMPARABLE WITH EARLIER PERIODS THE FEBRUARY TOTAL SHOULD BE RAISED BY 240,000 AND THE MARCH TOTAL BY 180,000.

² NET SPENDABLE EARNINGS ARE OBTAINED BY DEDUCTING APPLICABLE SOCIAL SECURITY AND FEDERAL INCOME TAXES FROM THE AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING.

Program Notes

LABOR COURSE STARTED BY FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE

On the recommendation of the U. S. Labor Department, the Foreign Service Institute has started a 6-week labor training course for Foreign Service officers and other Government employees.

Assistant Secretary of Labor J. Ernest Wilkins, speaking at the opening day ceremonies April 22, said that the course will provide the training in domestic and international labor affairs needed because of the increasing importance of labor considerations in foreign affairs.

Speakers and discussion leaders will be drawn from trade unions, management organizations, Government agencies, and university faculties.

The course is designed particularly for Foreign Service officers who do labor reporting on a part-time basis in embassies and consulates where no labor attaches are assigned.

YOUTH URGED TO STAY IN SCHOOL

A nationwide campaign to urge teen-agers to stay in high school and graduate has been launched by the Department of Labor and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare with the cooperation of the Department of Defense.

President Eisenhower joined Labor Secretary Mitchell and HEW Secretary Marion B. Folsom in pointing out the increasing value of a high-school education. "I urge every boy and girl in the United States," the President said, "to continue as students

in school until they have developed their God-given capacities to the full. Only in this way can they hope to make their finest contributions to the strength of the Nation and reach the fulfillment of their own life purposes."

Secretary Mitchell declared that high-school graduates will be in growing demand in years to come as business and industry adopt new machines and processes which require workers with a high degree of skill. "A high-school diploma," he declared, "is fast becoming the young job seeker's minimum credential."

Yet, in 1956, only about 60 of every 100 boys and girls finished high school, while only 12 out of every 100 completed 4 years of college.

A handbook, "National Stay-in-School Campaign," prepared by the three Federal agencies, tells how local action can help to keep youngsters in high school. It states that the typical high-school graduate will earn \$50,000 more over his life-time than the 8th grade graduate, and \$30,000 more than the high-school dropout.

From every viewpoint, the handbook stresses, "education for all means a better future for America."

FEDERAL WORK INJURIES, DEATHS DROP

Occupational deaths, injuries, and diseases are declining steadily among employees of the Federal Government.

A study by the Labor Department shows the fatal injury rate for Federal employees has dropped by 49.1 percent since 1949.

Since 1948, injury frequency for 13 Federal agencies employing 70 percent of all Federal workers has been reduced by more than 27 percent. Since 1950 the all-disabling occupational disease rate has been reduced by 23 percent.

Between 1951 and 1956, incurred liability for Federal employees was reduced from 30 cents per \$100 of payroll to 25 cents, resulting in a Government saving of \$23.8 million in insurance premiums.

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FACTS AND SERVICES

April 26, 1957

From The U. S. Department of Labor

Current Publications Available

NEW ENGLAND LABOR AND LABOR PROBLEMS. Reprint from March 1957 Monthly Labor Review contains articles on the following: An Editorial Note, Profiles of Worker Family Living in Boston—1875-1950, Historical Patterns and Recent Trends in Employment, Labor-Management Relations, Wages and Personal Income, The Problem of Depressed Areas, Labor Turnover in Textile Mills, Collective Bargaining and Competitive Cost in the Shoe Industry, and The Growth of the Aircraft Industry. (U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bulletin No. 1212. 1957. 50 pp. Available at 35 cents a copy from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. or from BLS regional offices in Boston, Mass; New York, N. Y.; Chicago, Ill.; Atlanta, Ga.; and San Francisco, Calif.)

FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

May 10, 1957

EMPLOYMENT

Total civilian employment rose by about 400,000 from 63.9 million in March to 64.3 million in April.

Agricultural employment accounted for most of the rise over the month, increasing seasonally by more than 300,000 to 5-3/4 million.

Total unemployment dropped by nearly 200,000 to 2.7 million in April. The unemployment rate was down from 4.3 percent in March to 4.0 percent of the civilian labor force in April.

The total civilian labor force was up slightly in April to about 67 million.

LABOR TURNOVER

Labor turnover rates among factory production workers in March indicated weakness in a few industries, chiefly metal consumer goods and their suppliers. The slack was not severe or widespread enough to have more than a moderate effect on the manufacturing totals.

Hirings held steady at 28 per 1,000 workers, though usually there is a little pickup in March.

Layoffs edged up seasonally from 14 to 15 per 1,000.

Quits were up from 12 to 13 per 1,000. Except for seasonal movements, quits, which roughly measure the availability of alternative jobs, have been about unchanged for 2 years.

Total separations, at 33 per 1,000, exceeded total hirings by 5 per 1,000—slightly more than usual for March.

STRIKES

Strike activity in the first 3 months of 1957 was the lowest for the first quarter in the past 8 years.

Idleness resulting from work stoppages totaled 2,150,000 man-days, or less than one-tenth of one percent of available working time.

Workers directly involved numbered 220,000, and the number of strikes in effect totaled 800. Both were well below levels of earlier years.

In March alone, strike idleness fell to 3/4 million man-days, marking the first March since 1945 in which this total fell below a million man-days.

CONSTRUCTION EXPENDITURES

Construction outlays in April increased seasonally by 10 percent to \$3.5 billion. This brought total expenditures during the first 4 months of 1957 to over \$12.5 billion, a new record, and over 2 percent above that of the same period last year.

Gains were in public spending, as private outlays for both April and the 4-month period declined from last year's record.

Housing and store construction are the only important sectors significantly below last year. The value of work put in place on new nonfarm dwellings in April was off by 14 percent from last year; for the first 4 months it was down 11 percent. Store building was 17 percent below a year ago in April and for the first 4 months.

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Program Notes

HUNGARIAN REFUGEES 'ECONOMIC BONUS' SECRETARY MITCHELL DECLARES

America received a "valuable economic bonus" by opening its frontiers to Hungarian refugees last fall, Labor Secretary James P. Mitchell declared in an article in the New York Herald Tribune, May 10, as the Joyce Kilmer Refugee Reception Center in New Jersey completed processing over 30,000 Hungarian escapees.

The great majority of the employable refugees, 72 percent, are in the prime working ages of life, between 16 and 45, Mr. Mitchell declared. Most important, 34 percent have skills currently needed in American industry, while some 18 percent are professional and technical people very much in demand.

"The National Academy of Sciences estimates that the education of these Hungarian scientists, engineers, and other university graduates represents an investment of over \$30 million," the Secretary added.

Figures on the percentage of craftsmen, skilled operatives, and professional and technical workers assume real meaning when measured against like proportions of the United States labor force as a whole. The Secretary said, "Professional and technical workers, 18 percent of the Hungarian escapees, account for only 9 percent of the United States labor force."

Most of the refugees are at work, but some are not, and the task of helping these to break the language barrier and open the doors to full opportunity is now one for local communities. Whatever their temporary problems, the Secretary concluded, they are contributing to "the enrichment of the main stream of American life."

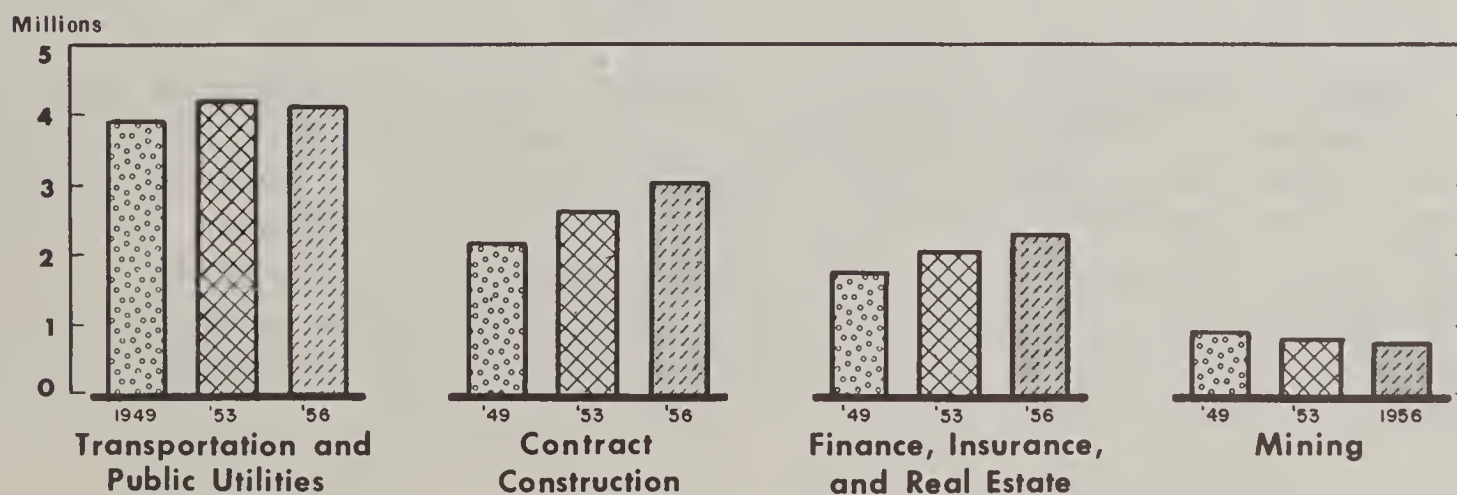
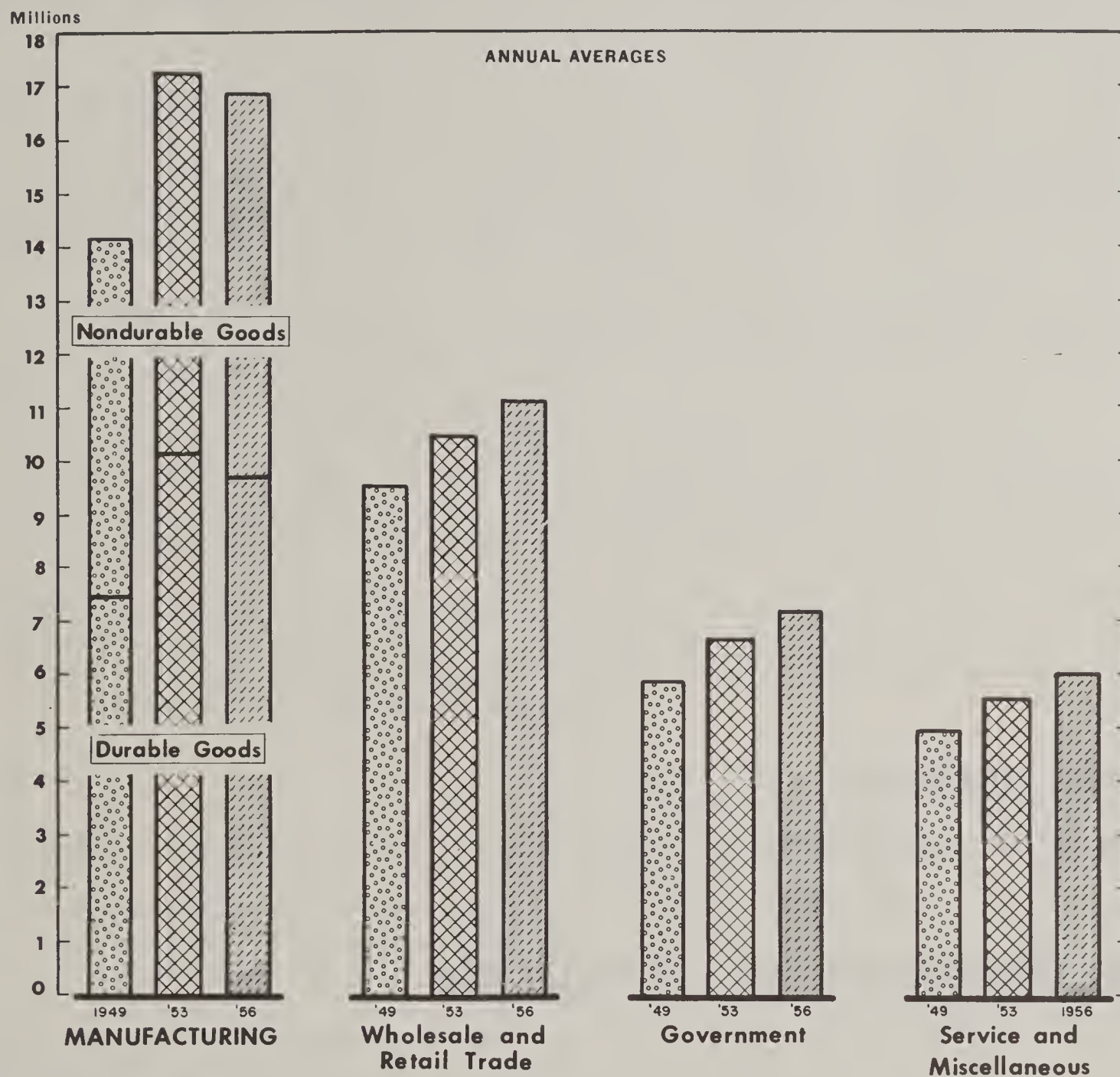
200,000 SENIORS HAD APTITUDE TESTS LAST YEAR

A Labor Department analysis of the services provided last year's high-school seniors by the public employment services shows that more than 200,000 seniors were given general aptitude tests to determine their vocational abilities in a wide variety of jobs.

Tests were administered by trained local public employment office personnel as a part of the counseling, testing, and placement services given to high-school graduates through formal programs of cooperation between the employment service and the secondary schools. Out of 23,330 high schools in the Nation, 7,328 participated in the program last year. While final figures are not yet available, it is estimated that well over 200,000 of this year's graduating class will have received aptitude tests by the end of the school year.

Employment in nonagricultural industries has expanded considerably in recent years, but not all major industry groups have shared in the rise. At one extreme, the contract construction and the finance, insurance, and real estate groups far outstripped the others in employment growth. At the other extreme, mining employment decreased. Employment in transportation and public utilities barely held its own. (See chart, facing page.)

Employment by Industry Division 1949, 1953, and 1956



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FACTS AND SERVICES

From The U. S. Department of Labor

May 10, 1957

Current Publications Available

FOUNDRY TRAINING NEEDS--Job Foundries. Booklet contains summary of data collected by the U. S. Department of Labor in cooperation with representatives of more than 100 job foundries. Foundries included in the study employed about 5 percent of the workers in the industry. The pamphlet, illustrated by charts, covers training period required, age distribution of workers, plans to expand equipment, employment outlook, and recent employment changes. (U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training. 18 pp. May 1957. Single copies available free from the U. S. Department of Labor as long as supplies last.)

FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

June 21, 1957

EARNINGS IN RETAIL TRADE

Less than \$1 an hour was being earned by 1 out of 4 nonsupervisory retail trade employees last October, according to a special Labor Department survey. (Eating and drinking establishments were excluded in the survey.)

The lower-paid workers totaled 1.6 million out of 6 million covered by the survey and were most numerous in the South. In that region, nearly 3/4 million, or 45 percent, were making less than \$1 an hour.

Straight-time pay, nationwide, averaged \$1.41 an hour, or some 50 cents less than the factory worker average. Men, constituting 60 percent of the workers, averaged \$1.58 an hour; women, \$1.11. Full-time workers received considerably higher wage rates than part-time workers. About a fourth of the total number worked less than 35 hours weekly.

Highest earnings were generally found in the metropolitan areas. About 20 percent of the workers in these areas earned less than \$1 an hour, as against 40 percent in small communities. The number of stores operated by the employer seemed to make little difference in the proportion of lower-paid workers.

EMPLOYMENT

- Total civilian employment rose by 900,000 between April and May to 65.2 million, about the normal change for this time of year. Most of the increase was in agriculture and construction.

- Total nonfarm employment was stable in May, holding at 58.5 million, while nonfarm payrolls edged up seasonally by 100,000 to 52.4 million. The small divergence in trend resulted from the different method of counting some dual jobholders in the Census and BLS series.

- Factory employment moved down by 120,000 over the month to 16.7 million in May. A drop for 5 consecutive months brought manufacturing job totals down to half a million below those of last December.

- Unemployment remained unchanged over the month at 2.7 million despite the upswing in employment. Most of those who started to

work in May were housewives and students who had been outside the labor force rather than jobless the previous month.

LABOR TURNOVER

- Labor turnover in factories continued at low levels in April, with both the hiring rate (28 per 1,000) and the separation rate (32 per 1,000) lower than in April in earlier years. The difference between hirings and separations was about usual for this time of year.

CONSTRUCTION

- Construction outlays rose seasonally by 11 percent in May to \$4 billion, a new high for the month. This brought the total for the first 5 months this year to a record \$17.1 billion, 3 percent above the January-May 1956 total. Costs had risen, however, and in real terms, new construction put in place in May was 2 percent below that of last year.

ILO COMMITTEES NAMED

George P. Delaney, U. S. worker delegate at the International Labor Organization Conference in Geneva, Switzerland, has announced the committee assignments of the U. S. worker delegation.

A. B. Cronin, Vice President of the Sheet Metal Workers International Union, will represent U. S. workers on the forced labor committee. The committee is considering a convention banning forced labor anywhere in the world. The U. S. Government will join the workers in support of this measure.

Emil Rieve, Chairman of the Executive Council, Textile Workers' Union of America, will handle discrimination in the field of employment and occupation, which is being considered for the first time this year.

George L. P. Weaver, Executive Secretary, Civil Rights Department, AFL-CIO, will represent U. S. workers on the committee on conditions of employment of plantation workers.

Elmer Cope, International Representative, Economics and International Affairs, United Steelworkers of America, will handle the protection and integration of indigenous and other tribal and semi-tribal populations in independent countries.

George Richardson, Special Assistant to the President, AFL-CIO, will be on the committee studying weekly rest in commerce and offices.

Gordon M. Freeman, President, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, will sit on the resolutions committee.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE TAX RATE UP

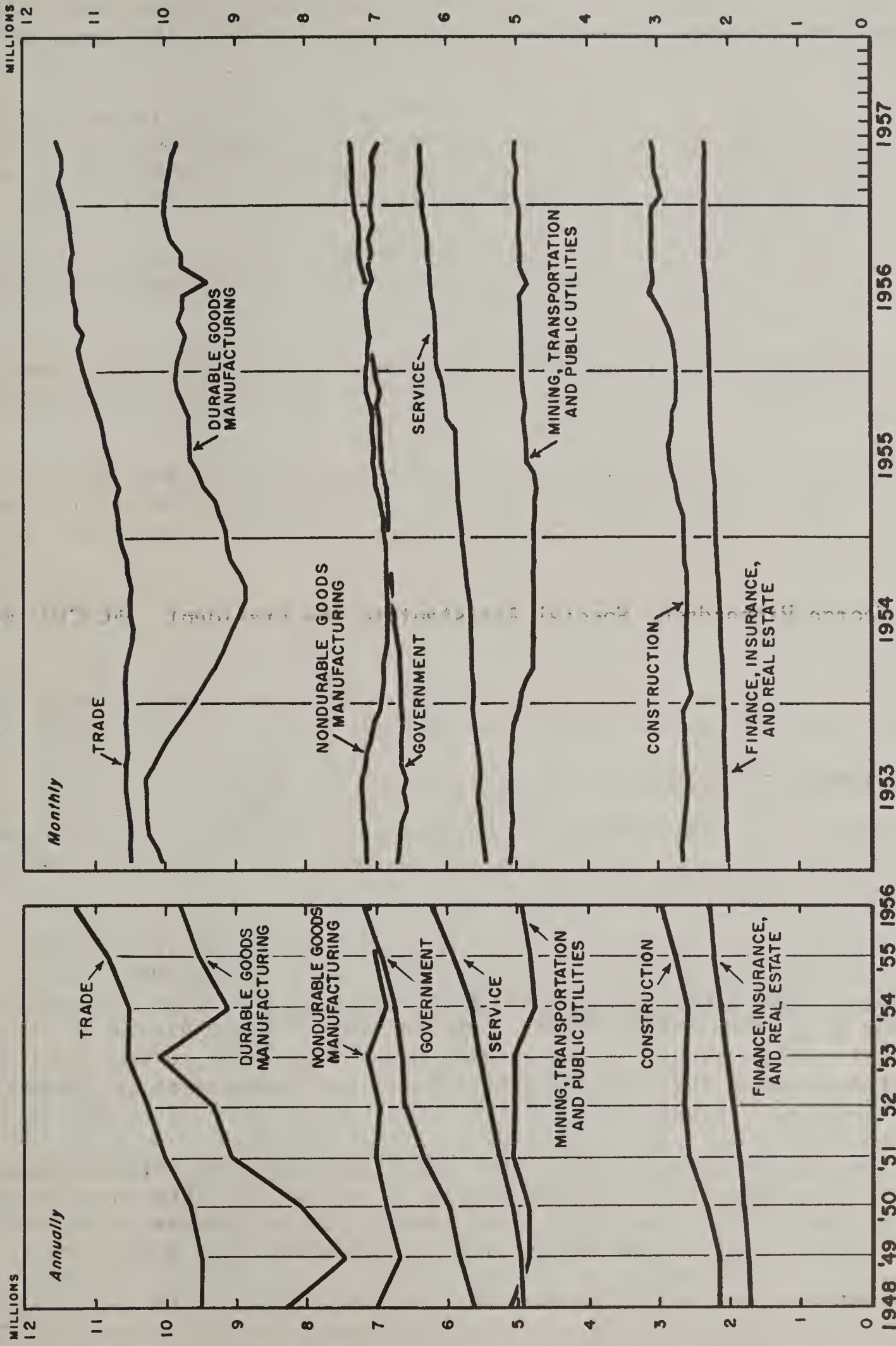
The average State unemployment insurance tax rate paid by employers subject to State laws has been increasing gradually over the last 2 years, according to reports received by the Labor Department.

In 1956, the average tax rate was 1.3 percent of aggregate taxable wages as compared with 1.2 percent in 1955, and 1.1 percent in 1954. Newly covered employers pay 2.7 percent of taxable wages during the first year they are covered by State laws. Employers in all the States except Alaska and Rhode Island were entitled to reduced rates in 1956 under experience rating provisions, which take into account the employer's experience with employment and unemployment over a period of years.

The rise in employer tax rates was attributed to the higher aggregate benefits paid in 1954 and to the substantial increases in State unemployment insurance coverage which have taken place as a result of changes in Federal and State laws. About 350,000 small firms were brought into the system in 1956.

Employers pay State unemployment insurance taxes on the first \$3,000 of employee earnings in all States except Delaware, Nevada, Oregon, and Rhode Island, where they pay on the first \$3,600, and in Alaska, where, as of January 1, 1957, the tax base is \$4,200.

EMPLOYEES IN NONAGRICULTURAL ESTABLISHMENTS
Seasonally Adjusted



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FACTS AND SERVICES

From The U. S. Department of Labor

June 21, 1957

Current Publications Available

FEDERAL LABOR LAWS AND AGENCIES. This is a revision of the layman's guide published in 1950. It gives summaries of important Federal labor laws and regulations. (These summaries are not official interpretations of any of the acts or regulations.) The pamphlet brings together under one cover a quick reference to such laws and regulations. It also shows the Federal agencies which furnish information or general services in the field of working conditions and labor relations. (U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards. Bulletin 123 (Revised). 119pp. 1957. Single copies available free from the U. S. Department of Labor as long as supplies last.)

FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

July 12, 1957

CONSTRUCTION EXPENDITURES

Expenditures for new construction rose strongly in June to \$4.4 billion. The rise was due to seasonal factors plus a moderate recovery in residential construction.

In terms of dollar value, the total has increased about 2 percent from a year ago, with gains in most types of construction partially offset by declines in the volume of private residential and store construction. (See chart, p. 3.) In terms of physical volume, however, there has been a slight decline as compared with a year earlier.

CONSUMER PRICES

The consumer price index rose 0.3 percent to 119.6 in May (1947-49=100), but non-food commodities declined moderately for the first time since June 1956.

Food prices advanced 0.7 percent and the uptrend in the cost of services and shelter continued.

The decline in the average for non-food commodities chiefly reflected lower prices for new cars, gas and oil, household fuels, house furnishings, women's apparel, sporting goods, and toys.

Wage increases became effective this July for about 1 million workers as a result of the rise in the CPI. About three-quarters of these (mostly steel workers) received 4 cents an hour. Nearly all the others received 2 or 3 cents.

STRIKES

Strike activity has been light this year, apparently to a large extent because of the unusually large number of 2- and 3-year contracts which were negotiated last year.

Man-days of idleness resulting from strikes in the first 5 months of this year were the lowest for the period since 1945, and nearly 20 percent below the previous low in 1954. Both the number of strikes and the number of workers involved were unusually low.

STEEL

Steel price increases recently announced will cause the steel products component of the Wholesale Price Index to rise by an estimated 4.2 percent.

The direct effect of the present steel price increase on the Wholesale Price Index is estimated at 0.20 percent for the index as a whole, and 0.26 percent for all commodities other than farm products and food.

LABOR TURNOVER

Labor turnover rates in manufacturing remained almost unchanged in May from levels of the previous 3 months. The hiring rate was 29 per thousand workers employed in May. This was moderately lower than in any postwar May except 1954. Both the rate of layoff and the quit rate were at 14 per thousand in May and 2 per thousand below levels of a year ago.

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JUL 31 1957

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

LATEST FACTS ON JOBS AND WAGES				
	MAY	MONTH AGO	YEAR AGO	5 YEARS AGO
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT ¹ (MILLIONS)	65.2	64.3	65.2	61.2
WEEKLY EARNINGS, MANUFACTURING	81.78	81.99	78.40	66.33
NET SPENDABLE EARNINGS ² (WORKER WITH 3 DEPENDENTS)	74.47	74.64	71.95	62.33
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1947-49 = 100)	119.6	119.3	115.4	113.0

¹ TOTALS SINCE JANUARY 1957 REFLECT A SLIGHTLY MODIFIED DEFINITION OF EMPLOYMENT. TO BE COMPARABLE WITH THE FIGURES FOR A YEAR AGO AND FIVE YEARS AGO THE MAY EMPLOYMENT TOTAL SHOULD BE RAISED BY 289,000.

² NET SPENDABLE EARNINGS ARE OBTAINED BY DEDUCTING APPLICABLE SOCIAL SECURITY AND FEDERAL INCOME TAXES FROM THE AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING.

ILO CONFERENCE TAKES NOTABLE ACTIONS

The fortieth International Labor Conference, which ended a 3-week session in Geneva recently, took a number of notable actions. Among them were the adoption of a convention to outlaw forced labor and the expulsion from the Conference of worker and employer delegates sent by the Kadar regime in Hungary.

Work toward the convention against forced labor began in 1947, when the American Federation of Labor asked the United Nations to investigate forced labor in the Soviet Union and Communist-dominated countries. The convention was adopted by a vote of 240-0, with one abstention.

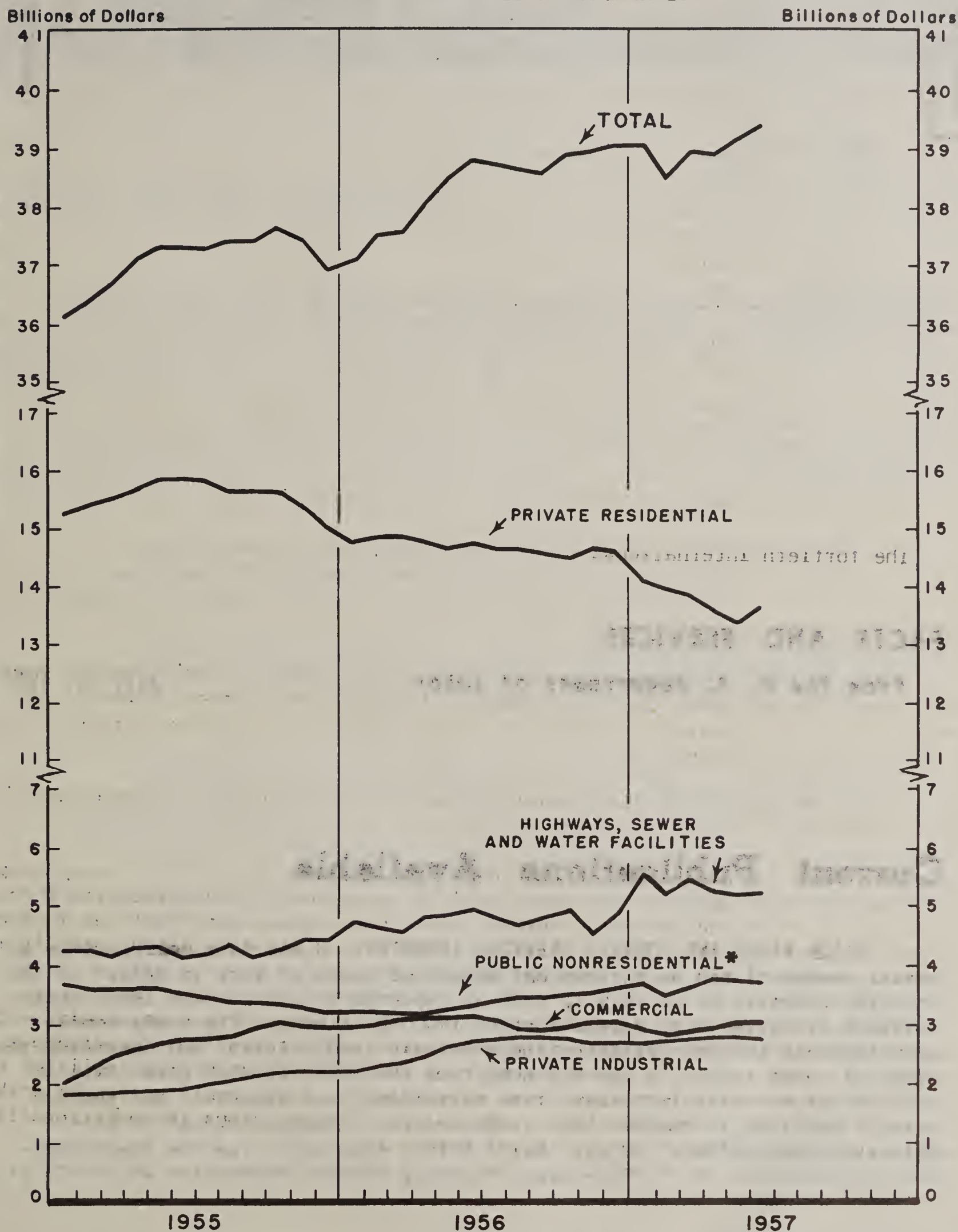
Stuart Rothman, U. S. Government adviser and Solicitor of the Department of Labor, said:

"The United States votes for the convention because the U. S. strongly supports its objectives. We desire by our vote to align ourselves with the extension throughout the world of the abolition of forced labor in accordance with what has long been the law and policy of the United States... The United States will voluntarily make reports as contemplated by the convention."

The Conference also adopted a convention and recommendation on weekly rest and a convention and recommendation on the protection and integration of indigenous peoples. In addition, it adopted a number of resolutions concerning abolition of anti-trade union legislation, promotion of safety in mines, construction of worker houses, protection of women workers, application of conventions in nonmetropolitan territories, hours of work, and workers' education.

EXPENDITURES FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION SELECTED FIELDS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ANNUAL RATES



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FACTS AND SERVICES

From The U. S. Department of Labor

July 12, 1957

Current Publications Available

UNION WAGES AND HOURS: PRINTING INDUSTRY. Gives data collected in an annual survey of the wage rates and scheduled hours of work in effect in the printing industry as of July 1, 1956 as reported by appropriate labor organizations in cities with populations of 100,000 or more. The study covers approximately 125,000 printing-trades workers in 53 cities, and discusses the trend of union scales in the industry from 1907-56. It also gives data on such topics as scale increases, rate variations, and insurance and pension plans. Contains 13 tables. (U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics Bull. 1207. 42 pp. April 1957. Available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. at 30 cents each.)

FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

August 23, 1957

LABOR AND THE ECONOMY

● **Average earnings of factory workers** in July continued the moderate upward trend of recent months. The rise has been about matched by the advance in consumer prices, however, so that the purchasing power of the weekly wage has not changed significantly. (See table, p. 3)

● **Claims for unemployment insurance** at the beginning of August were continuing their decline from the mid-summer seasonal peak, as more plants reopened after vacations. The only significant exception to the general downtrend has appeared in Washington and California, where claims have risen somewhat.

State initial claims declined to 222,000 in the week which ended August 3. This was about 110,000 below the peak in early July, but about 25,000 higher than a year ago.

Weeks of unemployment represented by State continued claims dropped to 1,194,000 in the same week. This was 160,000 below the July high point, but about 50,000 higher than at this time last year.

The rate of insured unemployment, at 3.0 percent, is the same as a year ago. The increase in the national claims total was accounted for primarily by the rise in employment and the extension of coverage to small firms.

● **Construction** was started on 96,000 nonfarm houses and apartments in July. This was 1,000 below June, and 5,000 below the July 1956 total.

Private housing totaled 90,200 units in July, the lowest figure for the month since 1951. This represented an annual rate, seasonally adjusted, of 980,000, about the same as in May and June. The average rate for the first 7 months was 960,000, or 15 percent less than in the same period last year.

Public housing continued at the highest level in several years, with a total of 5,800 units in July. About two-thirds of these were in projects under the armed services (Capehart) program.

LATEST FACTS ON JOBS AND WAGES				
	JULY	MONTH AGO	YEAR AGO	5 YEARS AGO
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT ¹ (MILLIONS)	67.2	66.5	66.7	62.2
WEEKLY EARNINGS, MANUFACTURING	82.99	80.80	78.60	65.84
NET SPENDABLE EARNINGS ² (WORKER WITH 3 DEPENDENTS)	75.46	75.31	72.11	61.95
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1947-49 = 100)	---	120.2	117.0	114.1

¹ TOTALS SINCE JANUARY 1957 REFLECT A SLIGHTLY MODIFIED DEFINITION OF EMPLOYMENT. TO BE COMPARABLE WITH THE FIGURES FOR A YEAR AGO AND FIVE YEARS AGO THE JULY EMPLOYMENT TOTAL SHOULD BE RAISED BY 325,000.

² NET SPENDABLE EARNINGS ARE OBTAINED BY DEDUCTING APPLICABLE SOCIAL SECURITY AND FEDERAL INCOME TAXES FROM THE AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING.

Program Notes



Under Secretary of Labor James T. O'Connell and President of the AFL-CIO George Meany inaugurate "THEY ARE AMERICA" exhibit in the U. S. Department of Labor Building in Washington, D. C.

An exhibit of photographs honoring the American work force was opened in the U. S. Department of Labor Building in Washington on August 2, 1957. The exhibit was opened in conjunction with the release of the Department's new publication of the same title, "They Are America."

YOUTH URGED TO

RETURN TO SCHOOL AND GRADUATE

Teen-agers are being urged to give up their summer jobs and go back to high school and graduate in a National Stay-in-School Campaign launched by the U. S. Departments of Labor; Defense; and Health, Education, and Welfare.

"A high-school education," Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell said in an appeal to the Nation's youth, "has high value not only to the individual but also to the Nation. It assures better job opportunities for the young person and a continuing supply of professional, technical, and skilled workers for the Nation."

"A research scientist and a craftsman," the Secretary added, "need different amounts of education, but both need the same basic education—a 4-year high-school course—in order to qualify for the complex jobs of modern industry."

AFL-CIO President George Meany said, in support of the Stay-in-School Campaign, "My advice to America's youth is to stay in high school and graduate. The youngster without a high-school diploma will find the doors of opportunity increasingly closed to him in tomorrow's world of automation and nuclear power."

The cooperative effort of the three Federal agencies has enlisted the aid of the Nation's newspapers, radio, movies, TV, and other informational media. The comic-strip character "Pogo" is using his popularity with youngsters to help persuade them of the value of getting a high-school diploma.

The Labor Department has available on request a wide range of informational material for the use of those who wish to give their support to the campaign. Available data give statistics, for example, on earnings and their relation to education; the incidence of unemployment among high-school drop-outs; basic educational requirements for different kinds of jobs; where the U. S. stands in the development of technicians as compared with Russia; and estimated job requirements in 1965.

RING THAT BELL!**RETURN TO SCHOOL!
GET YOUR DIPLOMA!****NOTICE**

The Department of Labor is introducing this month a 4-page monthly publication, "Labor Charts," made up entirely of charts. It will be distributed as a supplement to FACTS AND SERVICES. Readers who do not wish to receive the new supplement regularly should notify the Office of Information, Publications, and Reports, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington 25, D. C.

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FACTS AND SERVICES

From The U. S. Department of Labor

August 23, 1957

Current Publications Available

EMPLOYEE EARNINGS IN RETAIL TRADE. Initial report provides the basic results of a broad survey of the straight-time hourly and weekly earnings of nonsupervisory employees in retail trade (except eating and drinking places) in the United States. The final results of the study are being published in a series of separate bulletins for each of the major retail trade industry groups. (U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. BLS Report No. 119. 32 pp. 1957. Available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office at 30 cents a copy.)

FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

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September 13, 1957

OCT 24 1957

LABOR AND THE ECONOMY

→ The value of new construction put in place in August rose to an all-time high of \$4.6 billion, about 2 percent more than a year ago.

Construction expenditures for the first 8 months of this year totaled a record \$30.5 billion, 2 percent above that for the same period last year. Public work is a main area of strength this year, with public outlays during January-August at \$9 billion—10 percent above the 1956 volume for the same months. Private construction activity (\$21.5 billion) just about equalled the 1956 record so far.

→ Consumer prices in July continued their sharp upward movement of recent months. The Consumer Price Index moved up another 0.5 percent to 120.8 (1947-49=100), 3.2 percent higher than in July a year ago. The most important increase—1.0 percent—was in foods, but advances occurred in five of the seven major non-food groups.

Durable commodities, on the average, went a little lower over the month, but nondurable commodities (excluding food) rose rather sharply, and services continued their uptrend.

Cost-of-living wage increases, 3 cents an hour in nearly all cases, go to 1.3 million workers as a result of recent advances in the CPI. Almost all these workers are in the automobile, electrical machinery, and farm equipment industries.

Purchasing power of the average factory worker's take-home pay declined slightly in July because prices rose somewhat more than dollar earnings. Earnings in terms of purchasing power have not changed much since April, and are about the same as in the summer of last year.

→ Strike idleness in July totaled 2.5 million man-days—somewhat more than in June, but the lowest for any July in the postwar period, except for 1951.

Workers involved in strikes totaled 260,000, a postwar low for July. The number of strikes—625—also was quite low for the month. In July of the past 2 years, when there were walkouts in the steel industry, about 700,000 workers were on strike.

Three strikes in July this year involved 10,000 or more workers each. One was in the cement industry, another occurred among Southern California construction workers, and a third involved machinists in the California metal trades.

Program Notes

APPOINTMENTS MADE TO FEDERAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Four new members have been appointed to the Federal Advisory Council on Employment Security by Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell.

Those appointed are Mr. Jesse McGlon, general vice president, International Association of Machinists, Atlanta, Ga.; Mr. Jacob Clayman, international representative of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, New York City; Mr. Harold Keller, director of Association Relations, General Dynamics Corp., New York City; and Mr. Clarence W. Bird, director of the National Economic Commission of the American Legion, Washington, D. C.

Four present members of the Council whose terms of office expire this year were reappointed. They are Dr. Eveline M. Burns, professor of social work, New York School of Social Work, Columbia University; Mr. Nelson Cruikshank, director, Department of Social Security, AFL-CIO; Mr. Eugene D. Starkweather, director of industrial relations, North American Aviation Co., Los Angeles; and Mr. John Zuckerman, farmer, Stockton, Calif.

The Council is composed of 26 members, representing employees, employers, and the public. Members are appointed for 2-year periods and advise the Department of Labor on policies and programs relating to the Federal-State employment service and unemployment insurance programs.

MANY SMALL LETTERSHOPS VIOLATE WAGE-HOUR LAW

Many small lettershops, operating on the fringes of the Nation's \$1½ billion mail advertising industry, are violating Federal law by paying sub-minimum wage rates for typing and clerical work performed at home by housewives, students, or retired workers.

Such outfits compete unfairly with legitimate mail advertising firms. Employing homeworkers in widely scattered locations at grossly substandard wage rates, these marginal operators are hard to trace, and when found often disappear--only to reappear again in different areas under new firm names.

These conditions were described by Samuel Ganz, Assistant to the Wage-Hour Administrator of the Department of Labor, in remarks to executives of

the country's larger mail advertising companies. "In metropolitan areas throughout the United States," he said, "lettershops employing homeworkers are a major problem for wage-hour officials, who enforce the Fair Labor Standards Act."

The marginal lettershop owner frequently insists that his typists and clerical help are "independent contractors," although according to court decisions these workers are actually employees. Under the act, employees covered by the wage-hour law are entitled to receive the \$1 an hour minimum wage and time and a half for overtime above 40 hours a week, even when working on a piece-rate basis. The act also requires employers to keep time and pay records for homeworkers as well as office employees.

J. J. GILHOOLEY BECOMES ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR



John J. Gilhooley is pictured at left being sworn in as Assistant Secretary of Labor by Secretary Mitchell in ceremonies on August 28.

John J. Gilhooley, Chief Staff Assistant to Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell for the past 4 years, was sworn in as Assistant Secretary of Labor on August 28 to fill a vacancy.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1921, Mr. Gilhooley was graduated from St. John's College (B. B. A., 1942) and Cornell Law School (LL. B., 1949).

During World War II, Mr. Gilhooley served with the U. S. Navy for nearly 4 years, most of the time aboard the Battleship U.S.S. TEXAS. He took part in naval action at Normandy, Cherbourg, Southern France, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. A Lieutenant, Senior Grade, he was commended by Admiral Nimitz for service rendered aboard the TEXAS at Okinawa.

Mr. Gilhooley joined the Labor Department staff in October 1953 as Executive Assistant to the Secretary. He was appointed Special Assistant in February 1955. For the past 3 years, he has served as an alternate to the Secretary on the President's Committee on Government Contracts. This year, he participated in the International Labor Conference in Geneva, Switzerland. Before coming to Washington, he practiced law in New York City for 5 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilhooley—the former Joanne Bergin—have four sons, ranging in age from 1 to 6 years.

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FACTS AND SERVICES

From The U. S. Department of Labor

September 13, 1957

Current Publications Available

THE BUREAU OF APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING, What it is. . . How it can serve you. . . Leaflet tells how the national apprenticeship program came about, and describes the bureau's principal functions. Includes list of the bureau's regional offices. (U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training. 8 pp. August 1957. Free from the Department of Labor as long as supply lasts.)

APPRENTICESHIP. . . A GILT-EDGED INVESTMENT IN MANPOWER. Folder tells why planned apprenticeship pays dividends, and how representatives of the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training help in connection with training needs. (U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training. 4 pp. August 1957. Free from Department as long as supply lasts.)

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FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

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September 27, 1957

OCT 2 1957

WAGE INCREASES UNDER COLLECTIVE BARGAINING—First half, 1957

Wage increases were received by 5.6 million workers in the first half of 1957 under the terms of major collective bargaining agreements, according to Labor Department estimates.

The data refer to contracts covering 1,000 or more workers each in manufacturing, mining, trade, transportation, and utilities.

Of the 5.6 million workers, about 1.3 million received increases under contracts negotiated during the period. Among these were agreements in petroleum, glass container manufactures, the maritime industry, and railroads.

Increases agreed on last year or earlier went to the other 4.3 million workers. About 1 million of these workers (most of them are in the automobile, aircraft, and trucking industries) received both deferred raises and cost-of-living adjustments. Approximately 2.3 million obtained only cost-of-living raises, and 1 million were given deferred increases.

Last year, during the first half, about 2 million workers obtained currently negotiated raises and 1.2 million received deferred increases.

This year, pay raises agreed upon in new contracts were notably more diverse than those negotiated in the first half of last year.

At the top of the scale, 23 percent of the workers received raises of 15 cents and over this year compared with 11 percent last year. Raises of from 9 to 13 cents went to 27 percent of the workers this year compared with 45 percent last year. At the bottom, 26 percent received no increase or less than 7 cents, compared with 11 percent last year.

Long-term contracts continued numerous. Of the 1.5 million workers involved in contracts negotiated in the first half of 1957, over one-third were covered by agreements for more than one year, specifying further wage increases after the first year.

Supplemental benefits were liberalized in three-fourths of the contracts signed in the first half, affecting 1.1 million workers. Health and welfare benefits were the provisions most frequently changed.

LATEST FACTS ON JOBS AND WAGES				
	AUGUST	MONTH AGO	YEAR AGO	5 YEARS AGO
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT ¹ (MILLIONS)	66.4	67.2	66.8	62.4
WEEKLY EARNINGS, MANUFACTURING	82.59	82.18	79.79	67.80
NET SPENDABLE EARNINGS ² (WORKER WITH 3 DEPENDENTS)	75.13	74.80	73.06	63.49
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1947-49 = 100)	121.0	120.8	116.8	114.3

¹ TOTALS SINCE JANUARY 1957 REFLECT A SLIGHTLY MODIFIED DEFINITION OF EMPLOYMENT. TO BE COMPARABLE WITH THE FIGURES FOR A YEAR AGO THE AUGUST EMPLOYMENT TOTAL SHOULD BE RAISED BY 234,000.

² NET SPENDABLE EARNINGS ARE OBTAINED BY DEDUCTING APPLICABLE SOCIAL SECURITY AND FEDERAL INCOME TAXES FROM THE AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING.

Program Notes

ROCCO C. SICILIANO BECOMES AIDE TO PRESIDENT

Rocco C. Siciliano, Assistant Secretary of Labor since July 1953, was appointed last week by President Eisenhower as Special Assistant to the President for Personnel Management. Mr. Siciliano was sworn in on September 23.

Mr. Siciliano will assist the President with his civilian personnel management program. He will undertake a program designed to raise the effectiveness of personnel management in the executive departments and agencies and to improve all Government personnel management systems.

Creation of the new position and the appointment of Mr. Siciliano were "generally welcomed by employee organizations and congressional leaders," according to The Government Standard, official publication of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO. The issue also stated "Mr. Siciliano not only understood the problems of labor; he knew that the purpose of collective bargaining was to reach a fair and workable agreement."

Newell Brown, Administrator of the Wage-Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, was given a recess appointment by the Chief Executive to fill the assistant secretaryship in the Labor Department vacated by Mr. Siciliano. Mr. Brown will be responsible for employment and manpower activities of the Department including development and utilization of manpower resources, manpower mobilization, employment and unemployment insurance, and related areas.

NEW OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK ISSUED

A new, illustrated edition of the Occupational Outlook Handbook was released jointly this week by the Department of Labor and the Veterans' Administration. The last edition was published in 1951.

The 1957 edition of the basic guide to employment opportunity, prepared by the Labor Department, describes more than 500 occupations and 25 major industries. It includes for the first time many expanding fields of job opportunity such as electronics, physical and biological sciences, atomic energy, radio and television broadcasting, and social sciences. All industries and occupations covered in the 1951 edition have been completely revised.

Changes that have taken place in the American economy since 1951 also are evaluated in the new edition of the Handbook. The impact of technological improvement on each occupation and industry is assessed. An analysis of employment trends in industries that show signs of growth indicates those occupations that are expected to show employment gains.

The up-to-the minute information contained in the Handbook is based upon hundreds of recent field interviews with workers, employers, officials of labor unions, trade associations, and professional societies. This information is combined with data accumulated by the Labor Department over the years.

The Handbook now will be issued every 2 years. Each chapter or section of the current edition will be available soon in individual reprints for those interested only in specific occupations. Copies of the 700-page Handbook are available at \$4 each from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C. The reprints of the separate sections also will be on sale at the GPO at nominal prices based on size.

STAFF CHANGES ANNOUNCED IN LABOR DEPARTMENT

Several important changes within the Department of Labor were announced this week, as follows:

Charles D. Stewart has been placed in charge of the newly established Office of Research and Development in the Office of the Secretary, and Albert L. McDermott has been placed in charge of the newly established Office of Legislative Liaison, also in the Office of the Secretary.

Robert K. Salyers, Director, Bureau of Veterans' Reemployment Rights, has been designated Deputy Assistant Secretary, and Hugh W. Bradley, Assistant BVRD Director, moved up to the post as Bureau Director.

Clarence T. Lundquist, Deputy Administrator of the Wage-Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, will be designated Acting Administrator of the Divisions when Newell Brown assumes the duties of Assistant Secretary (see page 2).

Walter C. Wallace has been named Executive Assistant to the Secretary.

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FACTS AND SERVICES

From The U. S. Department of Labor

September 27, 1957

Current Publications Available

IS 'MATH' IN THE STARS FOR YOU? Leaflet is shortened version of the more complete study, "Employment Opportunities for Women Mathematicians and Statisticians." Designed to interest high-school girls in taking math courses, the leaflet discusses opportunities in teaching, computing, scientific fields, research, statistics, actuarial work, accounting, and in "pure" mathematics. 6 pp. (U. S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau Leaflet No. 28. 1957. Single copies available free from the Department of Labor as long as the supply lasts.)

FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

November 15, 1957

LABOR AND THE ECONOMY

● Construction activity has been gaining moderately since midsummer (allowing for seasonal factors), after holding steady in the first half of the year. In October, the estimated volume was about 3 percent higher than a year ago in dollar value, and about the same as last year in physical volume.

Recent gains have occurred mainly in residential, utilities, and highway construction and there has been a slow uptrend in schools and conservation projects.

Private industrial construction has shown the only decline of importance, dropping about 10 percent since May, after seasonal adjustment.

Private residential construction is still somewhat behind last year's levels in physical volume, despite recent improvement.

● The injury rate for trade workers in 1956 was fractionally higher than that for manufacturing workers. The shift reflects a decline in manufacturing injuries, rather than a rise in trade injuries.

For wholesale and retail trade, the average rate was 12.5 disabling injuries per million man-hours worked in 1956. This was essentially unchanged from 12.3 in 1950. In contrast, the all-manufacturing rate of 12.0 for 1956 was 23 percent lower than that for 1950.

● Initial claims for unemployment insurance have been running about 250,000 a week in each week since the end of September. This is about 80,000, or roughly 45 percent, higher than a year ago. Increases are generally sharpest in West Coast lumbering areas and in important metal goods States.

Weeks of unemployment represented by continued claims totaled slightly under 1.2 million in the week which ended October 26. This was about 330,000 more than a year ago. Continued claims have risen during October for the first time since 1953.

● Rises of average hourly earnings in major nonmanufacturing industries over the year ending in August generally equalled or exceeded the average increase in manufacturing of $4\frac{1}{2}$ percent. As in manufacturing, however, there was generally a small drop in hours worked, so that in some industries, the rise in weekly earnings failed to match the increase in prices.

LATEST FACTS ON JOBS AND WAGES				
	SEPT.	MONTH AGO	YEAR AGO	5 YEARS AGO
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT ¹ (MILLIONS)	65.7	66.4	66.1	62.3
WEEKLY EARNINGS, MANUFACTURING	\$83.20	\$82.80	\$81.81	\$69.63
NET SPENDABLE EARNINGS ² (WORKER WITH 3 DEPENDENTS)	\$75.63	\$75.31	\$74.70	\$64.93
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1947-49 = 100)	121.1	121.0	117.1	114.1

¹ TOTALS SINCE JANUARY 1957 REFLECT A SLIGHTLY MODIFIED DEFINITION OF EMPLOYMENT. TO BE COMPARABLE WITH THE FIGURES FOR A YEAR AGO THE SEPTEMBER EMPLOYMENT TOTAL SHOULD BE RAISED BY 247,000.

² NET SPENDABLE EARNINGS ARE OBTAINED BY DEDUCTING APPLICABLE SOCIAL SECURITY AND FEDERAL INCOME TAXES FROM THE AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING.

Program Notes

PAUL E. GURSKE RESIGNS AS LSB DIRECTOR

Paul E. Gurske, Director of the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Standards since April 1954, resigned effective November 1 because of serious illness in his family.

Before joining the Labor Department, Mr. Gurske was chairman of the Oregon State Industrial Accident Commission for 11 years. Prior to that, he served as president of the Oregon State Federation of Labor for 4 years, and for 15 years as business agent of the Street Car and Motor Coach Operators Union (AFL). His nationally recognized occupational safety programs brought Oregon one of the lowest occupational accident rates in the country.

In accepting Mr. Gurske's resignation, Secretary of Labor Mitchell declared: "Mr. Gurske has given almost 4 years of outstanding service to the Department of Labor...we will miss him greatly..."

Mr. and Mrs. Gurske will make their new home in Florida.

FACTS AND SERVICES

from the U. S. Department of Labor

November 15, 1957

EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION DECENTRALIZING

To speed up the handling of claims for workmen's compensation filed by Federal civilian employees in nine mid-western States, plans have been completed for the decentralization of this activity from Washington to the district office of the Labor Department's Bureau of Employees' Compensation in Chicago.

Claims of Federal civilian employees covered by the Federal employees' compensation act in the States of Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin are being examined and adjudicated through the Chicago office, effective November 4. Further decentralization to other districts is planned.

LABOR TEAM CITED

Three members of the American labor team which represented the United States at the International Trade Fair in Berlin in September recently were presented certificates of merit by Labor Secretary Mitchell.

Cited were: Walter J. Mason, legislative representative of the AFL-CIO; Jacob F. Fridrick, secretary treasurer of the Federated Trades Council, Milwaukee, Wis.; and Jacob J. Schaefer, treasurer of the Milwaukee Building Trades Council.

NEWELL BROWN BECOMES ASSISTANT LABOR SECRETARY

Newell Brown, Wage Hour Administrator since August 1955, was sworn in as Assistant Secretary of Labor at recent ceremonies in Washington. Mr. Brown succeeds Rocco C. Siciliano, recently named an aide to the President.

Clarence T. Lundquist, Deputy Administrator of the Wage and Hour Divisions, simultaneously became Acting Administrator.

VETERANS GROUPS ASKED TO AID OLDER WORKERS

The Bureau of Employment Security's Veterans' Employment Service has distributed a report to major veterans organizations calling attention to the need for their cooperation with the Labor Department in solving problems faced by older workers seeking new employment.

At present, 25 percent of all veterans are over 45 years of age. More than 2 million others are between 40 and 45, and by 1965, more than half of all today's veterans will be over 45, the report pointed out.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
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FACTS AND SERVICES

From The U. S. Department of Labor

November 15, 1957

Current Publications Available

LABOR LAWS AND THEIR ADMINISTRATION. Covers the proceedings of the 39th Convention of the International Association of Governmental Labor Officials, Miami Beach, Fla., November 27-30, 1956. These proceedings include a discussion on the following topics: Industrial Safety and Health, International Labor, Labor Laws for the Protection of Women and Children, Minimum Wage, Migrant Labor, and Mediation and Conciliation. (198 pp. 1956. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards Bulletin No. 191. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. at 60 cents a copy.)

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FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

December 3, 1957

LABOR AND THE ECONOMY

The consumer price index held unchanged in October at 121.1 (1947-49=100), marking the first month since August 1956 in which no rise occurred. The index, which had risen only slightly in September, was 2.9 percent higher than a year ago.

Declines in food prices were sharper than usual for the season from August to October.

Increases occurred in all other major groups except transportation. Advances ranged from 0.1 percent in reading and recreation and 0.2 percent in housing to 0.9 percent in personal care.

Cost-of-living wage increases, generally of one cent an hour, soon will go to about 200,000 workers. Most of them are in the electrical machinery, farm equipment, and aircraft industries.

State insured unemployment in mid-November continued rising somewhat more than seasonally, chiefly in durable goods States.

State continued claims rose 135,000 from mid-October to mid-November to 1,330,000. Last year at this time they increased 65,000 and 2 years ago, 35,000.

Continued claims of Federal workers rose to 28,000 in mid-November, about 6,000 more than in mid-October. Last year, the increase at this time was about 1,000.

Weekly spendable earnings (after deduction of Federal income and social security taxes) of the average factory worker with three dependents declined nearly a dollar in October to \$74.78, a little below a year earlier. The drop resulted from the short workweek. Because of the price rise, the purchasing power of this weekly wage dropped over the year by about 3 percent, or roughly \$2.35.

from the U. S. Department of Labor

INCREASES IN UNEMPLOYMENT REPORTED

Unemployment increased in three-fifths of the Nation's 149 major production and employment centers during the autumn, the Labor Department's bimonthly area labor market surveys showed. Made in cooperation with the State employment security agencies, the surveys indicated mostly small to moderate unemployment increases, with expected job losses to mid-January approximately in line with or more than the usual pattern following the Christmas pickup.

Significant unemployment increases were reported mostly in centers with concentrations of employment in aircraft (resulting from defense procurement cutbacks), and in machinery and primary metals. Seasonal curtailments occurred in food processing, lumber, and construction.

The total number of major areas with substantial labor surpluses between September and November remained unchanged, as Flint, Mich., was removed from this category, and Spokane, Wash., was added.

RELATIONSHIP OF STRIKES AND SIZE OF FIRM NOTED

Significant relationships exist between the size of firm and the incidence of work stoppages, an article in the Labor Department's Monthly Labor Review notes in the November issue.

During the decade 1947-56 "over 15 percent of all strikes involved from 6 to 19 workers, but, on the average, these stoppages accounted for less than 0.5 percent of the workers involved and man-days of strike idleness. On the other hand, work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers amounted to only 8 percent of the total, but accounted for about three-fourths of the workers involved and man-days of idleness. Only 0.5 percent of the work stoppages per year involved 10,000 or more workers, but these strikes involved about two-fifths of the workers and accounted for over half of all strike idleness."

In most of the last 10 years, the smallest and the largest strikes were of longer duration than those of intermediate size.

During the same period, stoppages primarily over union organization accounted for only 13 percent of all stoppages and 4 percent of idleness; those over wages, hours, and fringe benefits, for half the stoppages and two-thirds of the man-days of idleness.

This was a reversal of the trend in the 7 years preceding Pearl Harbor, when work stoppages primarily over union organization accounted for over half of all stoppages and about three-fifths of all man-days of idleness.

Data for 1956 indicate that the causes of work stoppages varied significantly with the number of workers involved. Generally, the larger the stoppage, the more often were wages, hours, supplementary benefits, and other working conditions the cause, but the less frequently was union organization, either alone or in combination with wages, hours, and supplementary benefits, the cause. It diminished from 42 percent in stoppages involving under 20 workers to 7 percent in stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers.

Program Notes

APTITUDE TESTS COULD COVER 1,400,000 STUDENTS

The aptitude testing programs of the Labor Department and State Employment Services could be expanded to provide aptitude tests to 1,400,000 high-school seniors to identify talent for engineering and other important professional, technical, and apprenticeable occupations, Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell said recently.

Aptitude tests are being given this year to more than 200,000 seniors in 8,000 high schools as a part of a broad cooperative school and Employment Service program. The program provides counseling and testing services to students which help them in choosing occupational fields in line with their potential abilities, interests, and educational qualifications.

The students are tested with the General Aptitude Test Battery, developed by the United States Employment Service. This measures a student's capacities to learn various jobs. Under the current program, tests are administered only to those seniors who have indicated they plan to seek permanent employment after graduation. The program could be expanded to serve the other 15,000 high schools in the Nation. The tests have been validated for a large number of professional, scientific, and technical occupations.

DEPARTMENT HOLDS EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

On November 12 and 13, the Labor Department held a conference on education and employment to explore ways in which the Department can work with the Nation's schools to meet present and future needs for properly educated and trained manpower.

Officials from the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, and Health, Education, and Welfare, and the Veterans' Administration, and 50 educators from 30 States took part in the 2-day meetings. The Labor Department is planning similar meetings with labor, industry, and community groups.

LABOR DEPARTMENT APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

Mrs. Alice K. Leopold, formerly Assistant to the Secretary for Women's Affairs, has been appointed Assistant to the Secretary of Labor. She will continue to serve as the Director of the Department's Women's Bureau.

Edward J. Zahn, Jr., of Racine, Wis., has been appointed as a Special Assistant to the Secretary. He will help to maintain liaison with the Congress on the Department's legislative program.

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FACTS AND SERVICES

From The U. S. Department of Labor

December 3, 1957

Current Publications Available

RESEARCH ON SKILL DEVELOPMENT IN INDUSTRY. Pamphlet indicates principal areas in which information is needed and outlines some of the research that has been initiated in the following fields: (1) Skilled manpower requirements and training needs; (2) development of skills in industry; and (3) other sources of job skills. (U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training. 8 pp. October 1957. Single copies available free from the U. S. Department of Labor as long as supplies last.)

FACTS and SERVICES

FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, SECRETARY

January 31, 1958

THE EMPLOYMENT PICTURE

Unemployment increased by 200,000 to 3.4 million in mid-December, raising the seasonally adjusted rate of unemployment to 5.2 percent, the highest level in 3 years.

A marked increase occurred among adult men. Joblessness among women and teen-agers was reduced as many either found jobs or left the labor market.

State insured unemployment, which does not include most temporary workers, moved up sharply by 500,000 to nearly 2 million in mid-December and continued upward as extensive layoffs occurred later in the month.

Total civilian employment, despite an unfavorable picture in many non-farm industries, was at 64.4 million—almost equal to the record level for December set in 1956.

Review of the Year:

After 3 years of steady growth which boosted job levels to an all-time peak in the summer of 1957, employment turned downward in early fall and continued to drop more than seasonally as the year progressed. By December, total employment was down to year-ago levels and sharp drops had occurred in many major nonfarm sectors.

Manufacturing employment had been declining on a seasonally adjusted basis from the beginning of the year and by December had dropped 800,000 below its year-ago level. More than three-fourths of this decline was in the durable goods sector. Until early autumn, employment was still expanding in most sectors outside of manufacturing but then began to taper off (on a seasonally adjusted basis), especially in trade and construction.

Sharp reductions in the workweek have accompanied the over-the-year drop in nonfarm employment. The number of nonfarm workers on overtime (41 hours or more a week) was about 2 million below that of December 1956, while the number cut below 35 hours a week because of slack work and other economic factors was up by a quarter of a million. Among factory workers, average weekly hours, at 39.3, were 1.7 hours below last December. Average weekly earnings in manufacturing dropped by \$1.13 over the year to \$82.92, while average hourly earnings rose 6 cents to \$2.11.

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U.S. DEPT. OF LABOR

LATEST FACTS ON JOBS AND WAGES				
	DEC.	MONTH AGO	YEAR AGO	5 YEARS AGO
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT ¹ (MILLIONS)	64.4	64.9	64.6	61.5
WEEKLY EARNINGS, MANUFACTURING	\$ 82.92	\$ 82.92	\$ 84.05	\$ 72.44
NET SPENDABLE EARNINGS ² (WORKER WITH 3 DEPENDENTS)	\$ 75.40	\$ 75.40	\$ 76.54	\$ 66.94
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1947-49 = 100)	---	121.6	118.0	114.1

¹ TOTALS SINCE JANUARY 1957 REFLECT A SLIGHTLY MODIFIED DEFINITION OF EMPLOYMENT. TO BE COMPARABLE WITH THE FIGURES FOR A YEAR AGO THE DECEMBER EMPLOYMENT TOTAL SHOULD BE RAISED BY 256,000.

² NET SPENDABLE EARNINGS ARE OBTAINED BY DEDUCTING APPLICABLE SOCIAL SECURITY AND FEDERAL INCOME TAXES FROM THE AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING.

Total unemployment moved sharply upward in the fall of 1957, following a period of 2 years or more during which the jobless had averaged about 4 percent of the labor force on a seasonally adjusted basis. By the end of 1957, the rate had moved up to 5.2 percent and the jobless total climbed about 700,000 above the level of a year earlier. Most of the increase has been among adult men, reflecting the fact that the downturn was centered in the durable goods industries.

State insured unemployment followed the same general trend, rising more rapidly than usual toward the end of the year. Compared with December 1956, insured unemployment was up sharply in nearly all States and the increase, nationwide, amounted to about 60 percent. The volume was more than twice the year-ago level in eight States, including California, Connecticut, Maryland, and Ohio.

Other 1957 Data

CONSTRUCTION: Outlays for new construction in 1957 totaled a record \$47.3 billion—about 3 percent above the previous high of \$46.1 billion spent in 1956, according to preliminary estimates.

Spending reached peak levels for most major types of private and public construction, but year to year gains narrowed for some.

Construction was begun on an estimated 1,039,200 nonfarm houses and apartments in 1957. This was the lowest figure since 1949, but the rate of decline was less than half that shown between 1955 and 1956.

STRIKE ACTIVITY: In terms of both workers involved and working time lost, strike activity declined sharply in 1957 to the lowest levels of the postwar period. The number of disputes commencing during the year also was reduced significantly. Only 1948 and 1955 showed a lower number of stoppages.

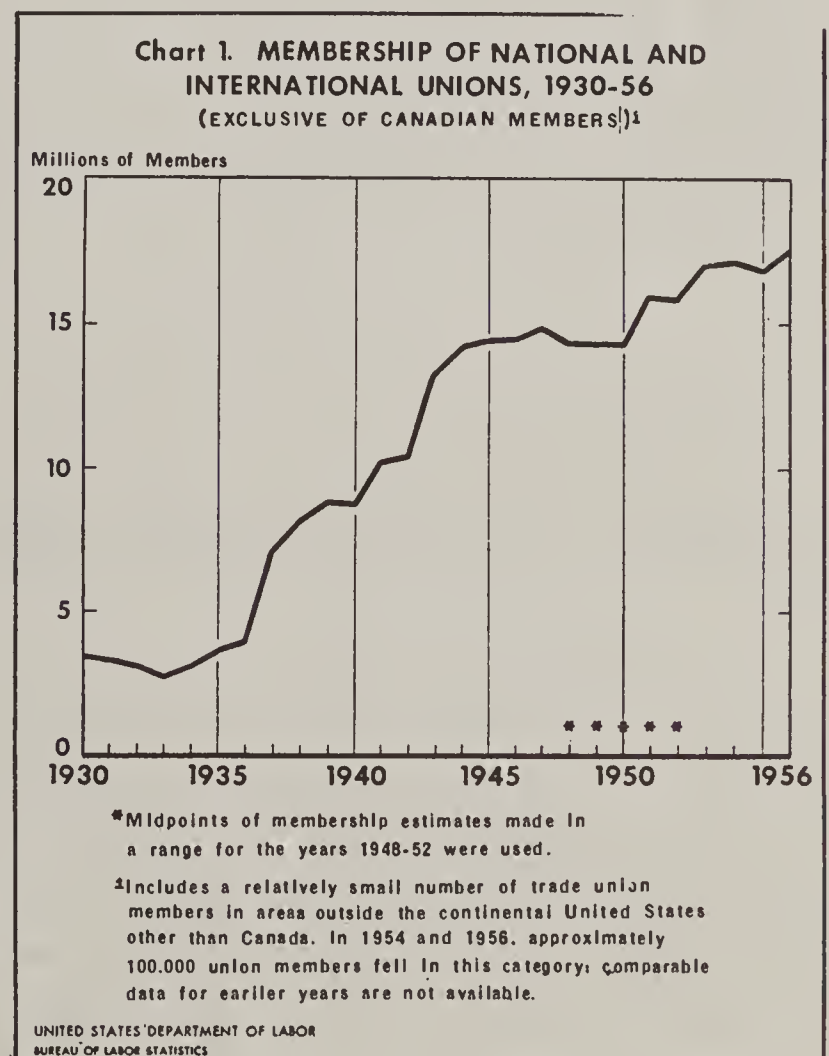
Time lost averaged 0.1 percent of estimated total working time compared with 0.3 percent in 1956. Workers involved averaged 3.1 percent of total private nonfarm employment. The 1956 figure was 4.3 percent.

1957 DIRECTORY OF LABOR UNIONS RELEASED

Facts about the structure, size, composition, and leadership of the trade union movement are covered in the Labor Department's 1957 edition of the "Directory of National and International Labor Unions in the United States," released recently. It also contains a detailed report on trade union developments.

Trade unions reported about 18.5 million members at the end of 1956, an increase of 500,000 since 1954, when the Department's last survey of union membership was made. A fourth of the Nation's total labor force and about a third of employees in nonfarm establishments belonged to unions.

The 64-page Directory contains an alphabetical listing of each national and international union. It is available from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C., as BLS Bulletin No. 1222 at 40 cents each. The Office of Information, Publications, and Reports has a limited number of copies for free distribution, and will fill requests for single copies as long as the supply lasts.



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FACTS AND SERVICES

January 31, 1958

From The U. S. Department of Labor

Current Publications Available

LABOR OFFICES IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA. Using term "labor office" in its broadest sense, list includes Federal offices and agencies which deal with general labor problems, and such State and Territorial agencies as departments and bureaus of labor, unemployment and accident compensation commissions, minimum wage boards, factory inspection services, and arbitration and conciliation boards. Similar data for the principal Canadian offices are included. (*U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards Bulletin 177 (Revised). 49 pp. September 1957. Single copies available free from U. S. Department of Labor as long as supply lasts.*)

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